

WFO 100-50739

"Vietnam War" which appeared in the October, 1969 issue of the Air Force and Space Digest. Also enclosed is one copy of the June, 1970 issue of the same magazine which contains an article entitled "The Plight of the Prisoners - America Responds - Will Hanoi?" It is noted the second enclosed article contains a list of American fliers held prisoners in North Vietnam. Also enclosed for New York is one copy of a press release of the Women's Strike for Peace, which was read to the press on 1/27/70 by CORA WEISS who is co-chairman of COLIFAM. Also enclosed for New York are 10 copies of LHM dated and captioned as above.

Enclosed for the Los Angeles Division are 4 copies of airtel and LHM dated and captioned as above.

Enclosed for Newark are 3 copies of same LHM and airtel.

Enclosed for Philadelphia are 4 copies of same LHM and airtel.

MB:AR 20

It is noted that each office receiving copies of this airtel and LHM is the office of origin of one or more of the individuals publicly identified as members of COLIFAM. These offices are requested to verify travel of subjects to North Vietnam and to forward results of such investigation to the Bureau and New York Division.

WFO 100-50739

The representative of the Federal Bureau of  
Investigation who reviewed the Passport and Office of  
Security file, U.S. Department of State, WDC is SA [REDACTED] b7c

b7c  
A pretext phone call to Institute for Policy Studies was made on 8/17/70 by SA [REDACTED] using the pretext of having a relative being held prisoner in North Vietnam. The identity of the SA was not revealed. b7c

The enclosed LHM is classified "SECRET" inasmuch as the material set forth from the files of Office of Security, USDS is classified SECRET.

Inasmuch as no further investigation is outstanding in WFO files this matter is considered RUC.



## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Washington, D.C. 20535

SECRET

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

August 19, 1970

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF  
SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)

not forward

not forward b2  
7-23-93 9803  
Power min E.O 12812

E.O 12812-2

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP (S) OF \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_

b2

E.O 12812-2 9803

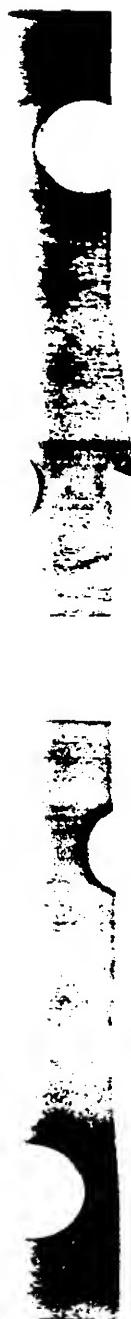
SECRET

not forward

8-18-93 b2  
E.O. 12812- Classified by 71259  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification  
Date of Declassification: 10-20-2010GROUP I  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassificationALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE  
STATED62  
ENCLOSURE  
10-4-1988 88

SECRET

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF  
SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (S)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (S)

[REDACTED] (S)

[REDACTED] (S)

[REDACTED] (S)

The November 13, 1969, issue of the Washington Post Newspaper, a daily newspaper distributed in WDC, contained an article which states that Richard J. Barnet traveled to Hanoi as a participant in a meeting to register support of "Massive (American) Demonstrations Against the United States Aggression in Vietnam". According to this report Barnet was in North Vietnam one week.

Barnet is the co-director for the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS), 1520 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., WDC. IPS has been publically described as a radical think-tank of the New Left.

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF  
SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)

On August 17, 1970 a representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation learned that Richard J. Barnet, of IPS is connected with COLIFAM, and that Barnet's name was inadvertently misspelled on COLIFAM's letterhead stationery.

A series of three articles appeared in the "Chicago Sun Times", a Chicago daily newspaper, in the editions of November 12, 13, and 14, 1967, concerning the travel of Rennie Davis to Hanoi, North Vietnam. The article bore the byline of Morton Kondracke. This write-up contained the information that Davis and six other opponents of United States involvement visited North Vietnam at the request of the Hanoi Government. Davis stated in this series of three articles that he did not visit North Vietnam as a "neutral observer" and he set out his experience and contacts with the North Vietnamese and the captured American military personnel.

On August 4, 1970, Miss Mary Williams, Clerk, Foreign Agents Registration Section, United States Department of Justice, WDC, advised that the following individuals have not registered pursuant to the Foreign Agents Registration Act, 1938; as amended

Richard J. Barnett (also checked under Barnet)  
Madeline Duckles  
Richard Falk  
Norman Fruchter  
Donald Kalish  
Franz Schuermann

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

~~SECRET~~

FBI

Date 7/14/70

Transmit the following in POW/MIA E.O. 12812

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL

(Priority)

PS

L.R.B.

9-10-82

**TO:** DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)  
**FROM:** SAC, CHARLOTTE (100-10986) (P)

**COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES  
 OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN  
 NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)  
 IS - MISCELLANEOUS  
 REGISTRATION ACT**

(OO: NEW YORK)

Re New York airtels to Bureau 6/9/70 and 7/14/70; and  
 Columbia airtel to Bureau 7/18/70.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eleven copies of LHM re  
 captioned organization. Three copies are enclosed for New York,  
 two copies enclosed for Dallas, and one copy for information of  
 WFO.

Charlotte indices negative concerning captioned organi-  
 zation, and review of local newspapers failed to reveal any  
 information regarding the organization.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] could furnish no informa-  
 tion regarding COLIFAM and its contacts. (O.U.)

Investigation at [REDACTED] N. C., was conducted by SA

[REDACTED] N. C., by SA

[REDACTED] N. C., by SA

REC-41

① Bureau (100-457899) (Encs. 11) (RM)  
 3-New York (100-168469) (Encs. 3) (RM)  
 2-Dallas (Encs. 2) (RM)  
 1-WFO (Enc. 1) (Info) (RM)  
 3-Charlotte

5 AUG 21 1970

AGENCY: 62-ONI, DS/P, SEC. SER., STATE

CIA

RAO (ISD, CIO, CIO) 100-10989

Deleted Copy Ser

by [REDACTED]

For

DATE FORW: 8/24/70

HOW FORW: RIS b2c

BY: [REDACTED]

cc & enc 910

54 SEPI 1970

(12) b2c

Approved: [Signature]

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

X F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

CE 100-10986

Charlotte presently has outstanding leads to interview  
Mrs. ██████████ ██████████ N. C., and Mrs. ██████████

██████████ N. C.

b2c

LEADSDALLAS

AT ██████████ TEXAS

██████████ b2c Will attempt to locate and interview Mrs. ██████████  
and Mrs. ██████████ b2c in accordance with instructions  
in referenced New York Writter dated 6/9/70. b2cCHARLOTTE

AT ██████████ N. C.

Will continue efforts to locate and interview relatives  
of ██████████ b2c

AT ██████████ N. C.

Will contact Mrs. ██████████ b2c and obtain copies  
of communications which she has received from COLIFAM.

E.O. 13812



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
Charlotte, North Carolina

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

August 19, 1970

**COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES  
OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN  
NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)**

Confidential informants familiar with activities of groups in North Carolina opposed to the war in Vietnam were contacted during the course of this investigation and could furnish no information regarding captioned organization.

7-23-93 9803 [REDACTED]  
Pow/Mia E.O.12812

b2c

6.0.12812-2

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN

DATE 9/2/82

#220,673

b2c

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
PRECISELY

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS NEITHER  
RECOMMENDATIONS NOR CONCLUSIONS  
OF THE FBI. IT IS THE PROPERTY  
OF THE FBI AND IS LOANED TO YOUR  
AGENCY; IT AND ITS CONTENTS ARE  
NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE  
YOUR AGENCY.

ENCLOSURE

1-89

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 7/31/70

Mrs. [REDACTED] whose permanent address is [REDACTED], Virginia, has been for the last six weeks visiting her mother [REDACTED] North Carolina.

b7c  
Her husband is [REDACTED] in the United States Navy and on [REDACTED] 1968, his plane was shot down over North Vietnam. He is known to be alive and a prisoner of war in North Vietnam.

E.O./2812  
In January, 1970, she received an invitation in the mail to attend a press conference in Washington, District of Columbia, concerning the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam. It was indicated in the invitation that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the prisoner of war situation in North Vietnam. She and a good friend, Mrs. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Virginia, whose husband is also a prisoner of war in North Vietnam, attended the conference which was held the same month at Campbell House Building, Washington, District of Columbia, and it was at this time that she learned that the Committee was formed in December, 1969, and is presently headed by co-chairmen CORA WEISS and DAVID DELLINGER. During the conference, CORA WEISS mentioned that she had been to Hanoi.

In January, 1970, she received a letter from the Committee which stated that through an agreement with Hanoi the Committee would be able to handle mail from prisoners of war to their respective families in the United States. The letter also expressed the hope of the Committee that the United States Government would come to its senses and end this war.

She had no further dealings with the Committee, however, on December 25, 1969, and again on February 6, 1970, she received a letter from her husband and these letters were delivered in envelopes which had the name of the Committee printed on them.

On April 9, 1970, she and Mrs. [REDACTED] held a press conference in Washington, District of Columbia, where both women publicly stated they did not want any further contact from the

On 7/29/70 at [REDACTED] N. C. File # CE 100-10986-

by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 7/31/70

CE 100-10986

Committee even if it meant giving up letters from their husbands. Subsequently, she and Mrs. ██████████ received mail from the Committee, which they refused to open. b7c

She telephonically contacted an Investigator of the House of Representatives Sub-Committee on Internal Security headed by Mr. ██████████ and informed the investigator about the Committee and the mail she had received from them. b7c

On June 9, 1970, she testified before the Sub-Committee on Internal Security concerning the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam.

Mrs. ██████████ stated that RENNIE DAVIS and DAVID DELLINGER, who at that time were on trial in Chicago, Illinois, had been invited to Paris, France, by the North Vietnamese Delegation in that city. Judge HOFFMAN, who presided over the trial of DAVIS and DELLINGER, refused to allow their trip to Paris, so their attorney, WILLIAM KUNSLER, went in their stead. When KUNSLER returned to the United States, he held a press conference in which he announced that DAVIS and DELLINGER would be working with the North Vietnamese to channel mail from prisoners of war in North Vietnam back to the United States. b7c

Mrs. ██████████ advised that she was aware of two other wives of prisoners of war who had received mail from the Committee: b7c

Mrs. ██████████  
██████████ Texas

Mrs. ██████████  
██████████ Texas

Mrs. ██████████ advised that the following individuals' names had appeared on various communications she had received from the Committee: b7c

CORAWEISS

DAVID DELLINGER

STEWART MECHAM

CE 100-10986

~~LOUIS SCHNEIDER~~

~~MAGGIE GEDDES~~

~~ETHEL TAYLOR~~

~~RICHARD FERNANDES~~

~~RENNIE DAVIS~~

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 18, 1970

Mrs. [REDACTED] advised [REDACTED]  
that she is the wife of [REDACTED] who has been a prisoner in North Vietnam since 1967. She is familiar with the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM), and was first contacted by this organization in December, 1969, by letter. She has never had any personal contact with any members of this organization and was never harassed, cajoled, or threatened in any way. Since being contacted by this organization, she has received approximately five or six letters from her husband, which were forwarded to her by cover letter from COLIFAM.

E.O. 13112  
She was also advised on one occasion by the Committee that Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ was planning a trip to Vietnam and that if she would send a letter for her husband to Reverend FERNANDEZ, same would be delivered. She did send a letter but does not know if it was ever delivered.

Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that letters from instant organization were signed MAGGIE GEDDES, BARBARA WEBSTER, STEVEN E. HALLIWELL, and CORA WEISS. She also stated that she does not wish to do anything to alienate instant organization because this is one source available to her which has made it possible to correspond with her husband, and that she would be reluctant to testify in any court action.

Mrs. [REDACTED] made available copies of the following letters she has received from instant organization, as well as a form furnished to her for corresponding with her husband:

On 8/13/70 at [REDACTED] N. C. File # CE 100-10986

by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 8/14/70

# COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

## with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:

COLIAFAM

6.0.12812-2

January 27, 1970

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]

b2c

Co-chairmen:

Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:

Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee (in formation):

Rennie Davis  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
\*Maggie Geddes  
\*Steve Halliwell  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
\*Trudi Young  
  
\*staff

We assume that by this time you have received the letter from North Vietnam which was forwarded to you by members of our Committee. We are enclosing an Information Sheet which explains the work of the Committee of Liaison.

The North Vietnamese have said that prisoners will be able to receive and send one letter a month. As noted in the Information Sheet, you may send letters directly to North Vietnam (note the mail address and route). If you would like us to forward them for you, please enclose but do not affix stamps as we will be sending them on in packets. We are also enclosing a letter form which you might wish to use, whether you send it directly or through us. Prisoners can also receive one package, not over six pounds in weight, every other month.

To insure the safe and rapid delivery of mail from prisoners, the North Vietnamese will send periodic packets of letters through our office. The letters will then be dispatched immediately to the families to whom they are addressed.

The only way to secure the eventual release of prisoners is through the decision by the United States to end the war. But in the meantime we are pleased to be able to assist in the communication between men and their families. We hope to forward letters on to you again soon.

Sincerely,

*Maggie Geddes*

Maggie Geddes

# COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

*with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam*

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

(212) 765-1490

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee  
Richard J. Barnett  
Ronnie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young  
  
\*staff

Dear Muo [REDACTED]

b2c

*t.O. 12812-2*  
We're very happy to forward this letter  
to you which just arrived from North Vietnam  
along with 86 others.

We know it's been a long time since  
you were informed that this letter was en  
route, but it's a long trip and we too are  
delighted that they've arrived.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Webster Maggie Geddes*

Barbara Webster Maggie Geddes  
for the Committee of Liaison

# COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

## with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

6.0.12912-2  
April 20, 1970  
62C

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Detlinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee  
Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

Dear [REDACTED]

Rev. Richard Fernandez, a member of the Committee of Liaison, returned today from a two-week trip to Laos and North Vietnam. He brought back the enclosed letter along with 201 others from prisoners being held in North Vietnam.

While there, Rev. Fernandez held a lengthy interview with three pilots, Cdr. Robert Schweitzer, Cdr. Walter Wilber and Lt. Col. Edison Miller. He also was advised by North Vietnamese authorities that families should write letters monthly on the enclosed air-letter forms. We are therefore sending several to you at this time and will send more with subsequent mail.

We are of course very pleased to be able to forward this letter to you.

Sincerely yours,

*Steven E. Halliwell*  
Steven E. Halliwell

# **COMMITTEE OF LIAISON**

## **with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam**

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

May 11, 1970

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Dear friend:

A delegation of anti-war activists has just returned from a 10-day trip to Hanoi. Charlotte Bunche-Weeks, Jerry Schwinn, Frank Joyce and Elizabeth Martinez brought 47 letters from prisoners with them and we are very happy to forward yours today.

Committee  
Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

They also brought out additional suggestions for items which could be included in packages which we thought might be useful to you. Vitamins, minerals and protein are high on the list. Tooth brushes, tooth paste, soap, body powder, foot powder, hard candies, coffee, sweetners, tobacco, gum, instant breakfast, powdered sweet drinks, instant chocolate drink, tinned ham, peanut butter, cheese spreads, playing cards, travel chess-checkers sets, pipes, pipe cleaners. These are merely suggestions and packages, of course, are not limited to these items.

The arrival of this mail brings the number of letters from prisoners sent out since December to 861.

Sincerely,

*Karen Weiss*  
Cora Weiss

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON  
365 West 42nd Street  
New York, N.Y. 10036

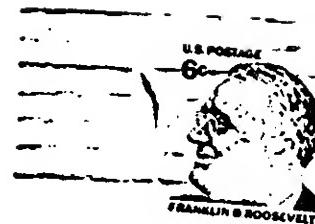
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Mrs.

[REDACTED]

N.C.

b7c



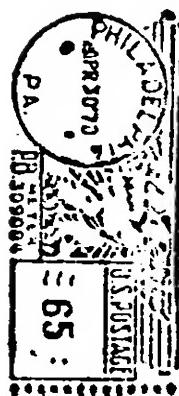
CORPORATION OF NEW YORK

365 WEST 42nd STREET  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10036

E.O. 12812-8



62



11

*NGƯỜI GỬI* (Addressor)

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

SỐ LINH (Service number):

NƠI VÀ NGÀY SINH (Date & place of birth):

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

TRẠI GIAM PHI CÔNG MỸ BỊ BẮT TẠI  
NUỚC VIỆT - NAM DÂN CHỦ CỘNG HÒA  
VIA MOSCOW, USSR (*Camp of detention for U.S. pilots captured  
in the DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC of VIETNAM*)

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON  
with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

*GỬI* (Addressee)

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

E.O. 12812-2  
62c  
F-370

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.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

NGÀY VIẾT (Dated) .....

**GHI CHÚ (N.B.):**

1. Phải viết rõ và chỉ được viết trên những dòng kẻ sẵn (Write legibly and only on the lines).
2. Trong thư chỉ được nói về tình hình sức khỏe và tình hình gia đình (Write only about health and family).
3. Gia đình gửi đến cũng phải theo đúng mẫu, khuôn khò và quy định này (Letters from families should also conform to this proforma).

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date July 20, 1970

b7c

North Carolina, advised her husband, [REDACTED] had been a prisoner of war in Vietnam for approximately four years. She said she had written to him at the address he had given her; however, she had received two or three letters from him that came enclosed in an envelope with the return address of Committee of Liaison, 365 West 42nd Street, New York, New York, 10036. She said she also received a letter from this group which enclosed sample copies of the form to be used in writing to the service men through the Committee of Liaison. She noted on this form letter it said "Via Moscow, USSR." She stated she never answered this letter or used any of the forms but continued writing to the address her husband had provided.

E.O. 13812 - 2  
 She said there had never been any personal contact by her with any member of the Committee of Liaison and she noted that DAVE DELLINGER had allegedly brought a letter from her husband in August, 1969, and this letter was addressed, apparently by her husband, to Mrs. [REDACTED] in care of Mrs. [REDACTED] North

Carolina, with zip code [REDACTED] She noted she did not ever know anyone named Mrs. [REDACTED] and she did not believe there was any such address in [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] She noted, however, she and her husband were known by almost everyone in [REDACTED] and a letter with her name on it, no matter what the address, would eventually get to her. She added the letter sent to her by the Committee of Liaison enclosing the forms for her to use was sent through this same address. She advised she assumed her husband had sent the letter to that address and it appeared to be in her husband's handwriting but she did not know why that had been done.

Mr. [REDACTED] b7c provided the envelope and the form letter and the three forms that had been sent her by the Committee of Liaison and said she would willingly testify to any of the above information.

On	7/14/70	at	N. C.	File #	CE 100-10986
SAS	[REDACTED]	and	b7c		
by				14	7/14/70

# **COMMITTEE OF LIAISON**

**with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam**

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

May 4, 1970

**Co-chairmen:**

Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

**Treasurer:**

Mrs. Anne Bennett

**Committee**

Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

want to write.

The North Vietnamese authorities indicated that, from this point forward, they will not feel responsible for forwarding letters and packages that do not adhere to the above.

If the letter form is mailed directly it can go in another envelope but the mail route, "via Moscow, U.S.S.R.," should definitely be included in the address. If letters are sent to the Committee of Liaison for forwarding please enclose but do not affix stamps as we send letter on in packets. The Committee cannot forward packages for families.

While I was in Hanoi, Prof. Douglas Dowd of Cornell University and I met with three pilots: Cdr. Robert Schweitzer of Lemoore, California; Cdr. Walter Wilbur of Virginia Beach and Lt. Col. Edison Miller of Santa Ana, California. The three men were in good health, and said they had daily exercise and reading material. The three pilots advised us that they had been getting letters and packages from their

**From: Rev. Richard Fernandez**  
**To: The families of the 335 presently confirmed**  
**prisoners held in North Vietnam**  
**Re: Information on correspondence with prisoners**

On April 20th I returned from a three-week trip to Laos and North Vietnam. In North Vietnam I spoke with officials responsible for communication between pilots held in detention there and their families here. The following information was emphasized to me by the North Vietnamese authorities and we are anxious to make sure that you are aware of it:

- 1) The Vietnamese recommend that families use the air-letter form (enclosed) for correspondence.
- 2) Communication to pilots should be limited to matters of family and health.
- 3) Pilots are allowed to receive one letter per month and one package every other month (not over six pounds in weight).

Detention Camp authorities have said that they do not wish to receive several letters and/or packages per month for a given pilot from different members of the same family. Families should make arrangements for alternating letters each month if different members

Richard Fernande memo - page 2

families, and asked that packages include toilet articles and canned foods. In particular they mentioned soap, shaving cream (no razors or blades), toothpaste, powdered milk and cream, instant coffee and non-melting candy. They said they do not need clothes.

Also, in my discussions with the Vietnam Committee of Solidarity with the American People, the Committee of Liaison's contact in North Vietnam, we confirmed that since December over 800 letters have been sent from Hanoi through the Committee of Liaison. Of those, 156 letters are still on their way from Hanoi to families here.

We hope that this information clarifies some aspects of correspondence for you. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us.



11  
11



b2  
E.O. 12812-2



COMMITTEE OF LIAISON  
365 West 42nd Street  
New York, N.Y. 10036

*NGƯỜI GỬI (Addressor)*

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

SỐ LỆNH (Service number): .....

NƠI VÀ NGÀY SINH (Date & place of birth):  
.....

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

TRẠI GIAM PHI CỘNG MỸ BỊ BẮT TẠI  
NUỚC VIỆT - NAM DÀN CHỦ CỘNG HÒA  
VIA MOSCOW, USSR (*Camp of detention for U.S. pilots captured  
in the DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC of VIETNAM*)

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON  
with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

*GỬI (Addressee)*

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):  
.....  
.....  
.....

NGÀY VIẾT (Dated)

**CHI CHÚ (N.B.):**

1. Phải viết rõ và chỉ được viết trên những dòng kẻ sẵn (Write legibly and only on the lines).
2. Trong thư chỉ được nói về tình hình sức khỏe và tình hình gia đình (Write only about health and family).
3. Gia đình gửi đến cũng phải theo đúng mẫu, khuôn khổ và quy định này. (Letters from families should also conform to this proforma).

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES  
OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN  
NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)

b2c

On June 29, 1970, Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED] the uncle and aunt of [REDACTED] United States Air Force, were interviewed at their residence at [REDACTED] North Carolina. Mr. [REDACTED] advised that their nephew, [REDACTED] was not married and that his closest living relative is his mother [REDACTED] who is presently residing at [REDACTED]

Texas. Mr. [REDACTED] advised that since [REDACTED] was captured on [REDACTED] 1966, his father [REDACTED] had passed away, and his mother's health had become very poor, and because her son was her sole support, the United States Air Force moved her to [REDACTED] where she is presently [REDACTED]

Mr. [REDACTED] stated that he is the closest relative of [REDACTED] in the [REDACTED] area, and that they had been in constant communication with his mother at [REDACTED]. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that they have had no contact from any organization that has offered to assist them in securing letters and other mail from their nephew since he has been confined in a Prisoner of War camp in Hanoi, North Vietnam. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that his nephew's capture was well documented and that his photograph being captured was displayed in the [REDACTED] 1966, edition of the Atlanta Constitution. He stated that apparently the capture had been photographed by a Japanese reporter at Hanoi and that his nephew's identity was carried in the caption with the photograph. He stated that since the capture, which was officially documented by the United States Air Force on [REDACTED] 1966, his sister, [REDACTED] has been receiving correspondence from her son from the Prisoner of War camp in Hanoi. He stated that she receives only one or two letters a year, but that she is permitted to write her son and that this is generally forwarded to a foreign embassy. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that to the best of his knowledge, his sister has not been contacted by captioned organization or by any organization which has offered to assist her in obtaining information regarding her son.

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES  
OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN  
NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)

62c  
Mr. [REDACTED] advised that if any organization contacted him in the future regarding his nephew, or if any individual attempted to assist him in obtaining information regarding his nephew, he would immediately notify the Federal Bureau of Investigation and supply them with the identity and other information regarding this individual and the organization which he represented.

On June 29, 1970, Mr. [REDACTED] United States Post Office, [REDACTED] North Carolina, advised that he is well acquainted with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

He stated that he was aware of [REDACTED] being captured just north of Hanoi in 1966, and that he personally delivered the first letter which came from [REDACTED] to his mother and father [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] sometime in November, 1966. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that the mail received from [REDACTED] is generally forwarded from the Swiss Embassy, and that Mrs. [REDACTED] generally writes her son directly to Hanoi at a designated Prisoner of War camp. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that he does not recall ever seeing any communications being forwarded to [REDACTED] mother or uncle from a committee, from COLIFAM, or any other organization with similar interests. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that if any communications come to the [REDACTED] family from such an organization, he would notify the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

On July 8, 1970, [REDACTED] Robersonville, North Carolina, Police Department, advised that [REDACTED] is the father of a boy who is a prisoner of war in Vietnam, but that he is in a constant travel status. This individual is a photographer and is very seldom home. His residence is [REDACTED]

On July 8, 1970, Mr. [REDACTED] was located at his home and advised that his son is still a prisoner of war in Vietnam. He stated that he has heard from him at irregular intervals through at least one and possibly two

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES  
OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN  
NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)

b7c

liaison groups. Mr. [REDACTED] advised that he is not a photographer, but is employed by [REDACTED] of North Carolina, and travels extensively setting up studios in various cities in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. His wife travels with him, and at the present time she is in [REDACTED] North Carolina, where they will be for the next three weeks.

b7c

Mr. [REDACTED] advised that he has been in contact with officials of the United States Government who have suggested that he have nothing to do with certain groups who profess a desire to help him communicate with his son. He stated that his wife has in her car, a box with all correspondence both from his son, the Government, and from one or more of these liaison groups. He stated that neither he nor his wife have ever been contacted personally by any of these groups. He suggested that he and his wife be contacted in Asheboro in connection with this matter as they will be there for the next three weeks, and his wife has actually done most of the corresponding in this matter. He stated that they are staying at the [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] north of [REDACTED]. He stated that they have a blue and white bus parked there and this is where they are temporarily making their headquarters.

b7c

On August 4, 1970, Mrs. [REDACTED] step-mother of Prisoner of War [REDACTED] was contacted at [REDACTED] and stated that all correspondence concerning her son and COLIFAM is at her residence, [REDACTED] North Carolina.

She noted that her son was captured by the North Vietnamese on [REDACTED] 1965, and is at a Prisoner of War camp at Hanoi.

b7c

As could be recalled, she and her husband received their first letter from COLIFAM in July, 1969, from RENNIE DAVIS, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, stating he and others had

**COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES  
OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN  
NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)**

been to North Vietnam and brought back letters from Prisoners of War, including their son. She said their son's letter was enclosed but at no time had there been personal contact with the COLIFAM group.

Other letters were received from CORA WEISS and Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ. There were about six letters in all from her son forwarded by COLIFAM, the last being sent from Philadelphia in June, 1970. She stated one letter indicated the Committee was a non-profit organization and they would like any donations to carry on the work.

COLIFAM indicated that the source of their information was from personal contacts with the North Vietnamese. Others contacted by COLIFAM were Prisoner of War relatives as follows:

Mrs. [REDACTED] North Carolina. b7c

Mrs. [REDACTED] North Carolina, who lives near Mrs. [REDACTED] and is a close friend.

E.O. 12813-2  
As to correspondence between her and COLIFAM, she said Reverend FITZGERALD had brought back a Christmas card to subject's grandparents with a letter to the [REDACTED] and which was mailed together to the grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED] North Carolina, from New York. b7c

In this connection, she stated the grandparents are quite elderly, very emotional, and have heart conditions. Consequently, she requested they NOT BE INTERVIEWED.

Mrs. [REDACTED] felt that she had a complete file on all correspondence at [REDACTED] which she will make available as soon as possible. She added that she will cooperate should her testimony be needed at a later date. b7c

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 17, 1970

*E.O. 12812-2*

On August 10, 1970, Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that her son, [REDACTED] is a prisoner of war in North Vietnam, having been taken in 1965 while serving with the United States Air Force in Vietnam. He has been a prisoner since that time.

She and her husband have heard from him a number of times since his capture, but initially it was at the rate of approximately two letters per year. Approximately one year ago, she and her husband received a telegram from RENNARD C. DAVIS, with a message from their son and stating that the original message was being sent to them.

In January, 1970, an information sheet was sent to them containing a background with regard to the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam. Subsequent correspondence was sent to them as follows:

A letter dated January 27, 1970, from the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam and signed by MAGGIE GEDDES.

A letter dated April 8, 1970, from the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam and signed STEVE HALLIWELL and BARBARA WEBSTER.

Enclosed with the above letter was an information sheet on the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, and also a form which the North Vietnamese suggested that relatives use when writing to servicemen in North Vietnam.

A letter dated May 4, 1970, from the Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ of the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam.

There has been no personal contact between Mrs. [REDACTED] and the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam. She stated that she did not approve of some of

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On 8/10/70 at [REDACTED] N. C. File # CE 100-10986  
*E.O. 12812-2* *b2c*

by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 8/10/70

CE 100-10986

the people involved in the committee, but that she is hearing more frequently from her son than she did before being contacted by this committee. She now hears from him almost every ten weeks as opposed to approximately two letters per year prior to this time.

b2c

Mrs [redacted] advised that she was willing to do everything in her power to cooperate with her Government and has done so thus far, particularly in regard to correspondence with the committee mentioned above. However, she stated that whatever the people of this organization has as a purpose, this organization has opened up communications with her son and she would hate to see anything happen to close these lines of communication. She promised her cooperation in this matter.

E.O. 12812-2

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)

DATE: AUG 26 1970

FROM : CWS, CHICAGO (100-48914) (P)

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES  
OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH  
VIETNAM (COLIFAM)  
IS - MISCELLANEOUS  
REGISTRATION ACT

b2c  
Re Chicago airtel to Director, 7/1/70 and  
report of SA [REDACTED] at New York dated 7/6/70.

Since referenced Chicago airtel, no additional information has been received by the Chicago Office concerning COLIFAM or contact by the committee with any Chicago area servicemen or their families. Logical informants and sources in the New Left and peace movements, local military sources and the intelligence unit of the Chicago Police Department all advised in August, 1970, that they had received no information of any activity by COLIFAM in the Chicago area.

The Chicago Office continues to closely review the local newspapers for any items of interest in this matter.

In view of the widespread interest in this matter, Chicago will continue to follow it closely at this time and will advise the Bureau, New York and any other interested office upon the receipt of any pertinent information.

② - Bureau (RM)  
2 - New York (100-168469) (RM)  
1 - Chicago

EX 106

REC-57

100-457899-90

18 AUG 27 1970

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

51 SEP 11 1970

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FBI

Date: 8/17/70

~~TOP SECRET~~Transmit the following in ~~b2~~ ~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED~~Via AIRTEL ~~IN THIS MESSAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED~~~~IN THIS MESSAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED~~(Priority) ~~b2c 5-17~~CLASS. & EXT. BY ~~383~~

REASON-FCIM II. 1-2.4.2

DATE OF REVIEW ~~5-19-90~~Classified from ~~b2c~~, PHILADELPHIA (105-15011) (P) ~~b2c~~  
Declassify on: ~~5-27-84~~ (100-49298)  
(100-49284)SUBJECT: Possible travel to North Vietnam  
by ANTHONY AVIRGAN, MARTHA WESTOVER  
and PHIL LAWSON, June 1970  
IS - MISCELLANEOUSRe appropriate ~~b2c~~  
2-17-79 990-4182-53 letter ~~b2c~~  
CLASS. & EXT. BY ~~383~~  
REASON-FCIM II. 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW ~~5-19-90~~Re Bureau nitel, 8/15/70 and Kansas City teletype  
to Bureau, 8/16/70. ~~b2c~~DECLASSIFICATION BY ~~9803~~  
ON ~~7-28-93~~ ~~b2c~~6-Bureau (RM) E.O. 12812  
~~2-100- b2c POWMIA~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SPECIFICALLY  
CLASSIFIEDH-1981  
CLASS. & EXT. BY ~~383~~  
REASON-FCIM II. 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW ~~5-19-90~~

REC-84 100 - H57899 - 91

EX-105 AUG 24 1970

CLASSIFIED DECISIONS FINALIZED

BY DEPARTMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC)

DATE:

- 1-Kansas City (RM) (Info)
- 1-New York (RM) (Info)
- 5-Philadelphia
- 1-105-15011
- 2-100-49298
- 2-100-49284

~~b2c~~  
CC 947

TP

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PH 100-49298

~~JAT/THB~~

b2

~~b7c~~

~~b2~~

on 8/18/70 that ANTHONY AVIRGAN departed Philadelphia 8/17/70, presumably for a trip to North Vietnam, travel plans unknown. Source could not verify WESTOVER's departure, but assumed she accompanied AVIRGAN because of previous plans to do so. ~~Q4~~

67C  
E.O. 12812

The source will be alert for additional information concerning destination, mode of travel and intermediate stopping points. ~~Q4~~

On 8/19/70, SA [REDACTED] telephonically contacted Philadelphia Resistance Headquarters, WA 2-7903, and was told by an unidentified male that MARTHA WESTOVER is out of the country and not expected to return until late September. (No Pretext Necessary) ~~Q4~~

Investigation continuing. ~~u~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~JAT/THB~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552

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 (b)(7)(F)  
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 (b)(9)

Section 552a

- (d)(5)  
 (j)(2)  
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- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.  
 Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.  
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        For your information: \_\_\_\_\_

        The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

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X FOR THIS PAGE X  
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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## *Memorandum*

TO Mr. C. D. Brennan  
FROM [REDACTED]  
SUBJECT:

**COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES  
OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM  
(COLIFAM)**  
**INTERNAL SECURITY - MISCELLANEOUS**

**PURPOSE:**

To apprise you of request of Air Force investigative unit regarding identities of American prisoners of war (POW's).

#### **BACKGROUND:**

On 8-21-70, [REDACTED] U. S. Air Force, 1127th USAF Field Action Group, Ft. Belvoir, Virginia, 22060, conferred with the Internal Security Section concerning a priority program, being handled at the direction of the White House, aimed at determining where American POW's are detained in North Vietnam and the identities of those POW's not yet identified by the North Vietnamese.

COLIFAM was established in January, 1970, by individuals connected with the New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam (NMC). To date, COLIFAM has released the names of several hundred individuals which the North Vietnamese say are POW's. Various individuals connected with the NMC have transported letters between POW's in North Vietnam and their families in the United States. ██████████ was aware of our investigation of COLIFAM and was told that we have two targets in our investigation. The first is to gather evidence to support a request by the Department for COLIFAM or its officers to register as foreign agents. The second is intelligence information connected with the antiwar movement in the United States.

[REDACTED] advised he realized our investigation of COLIFAM was directed along different lines from his responsibility, however, because of similar subject matter he would appreciate

100-457899

REC 18 100-457899-98

EX-100

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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IN WRITING~~

**CONTINUED - OVER**

Memorandum to Mr. C. D. Brennan  
RE: Committee of Liaison with Families of  
Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM)  
100-457899

being advised of any pertinent information developed incidental to our inquiries. He stated he would forward a letter setting forth this request.

Upon receipt of the letter from the U. S. Air Force, we will advise our field offices of the Air Force's objectives and the interest of the White House in their effort. Our offices will be instructed to attempt to develop information along the lines of interest to the Air Force and information developed will be promptly furnished to the Air Force.

ACTION:

None. For your information.

E.O. 17812-2

[Redacted]

b7c

W.C.

b2c

[Redacted]

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**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
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**Section 552a**

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- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.  
 Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.  
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(Rev. 12-15-67)

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE JACKSONVILLE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN NEW YORK	DATE 8/20/70	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 6/22/70 - 8/7/70
TITLE OF CASE  COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIAFAM)		REPORT MADE BY SA [REDACTED] b7c	TYPED BY
		CHARACTER OF CASE  IS - MISCELLANEOUS; REGISTRATION ACT - NORTH VIETNAM	

### REFERENCES:

New York airtel and LHM to Bureau dated 6/9/70.  
 Los Angeles letter and LHM to Bureau 7/13/70.  
 Alexandria airtel to Bureau dated 7/22/70.  
 Report of SA [REDACTED] dated 7/20/70,  
 at Tampa. 7-5333 b7c

E.O. 12012 ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 Powmia - RUC - HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED b7c

DATE 9/2/82 b7c

### ADMINISTRATIVE:

A review of office indices concerning COLIAFAM and individuals contacted by this organization identified in this report, failed to reveal any pertinent information.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		
							PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
							PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

APPROVED	WMA b7c	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW		
COPIES MADE:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>④ - Bureau (RM) (100-457899)</li> <li>3 - New York (RM) (100-168469)</li> <li>1 - Jacksonville (100-1419)</li> </ol>			REC 18	EX 106

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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

Dissemination Recd.	Order of Attached Report	Notations
Agency	NIS, STATE + SS, ARMY, CIA, OSI, RAO-1SD	NOT b7c
Request Recd.	7-27-70 b7c	
Date Fwd.	8-5-70 b7c	
How Fwd.		
Ref.	REF ID: A910D	

JK 100-1419

The following local military sources were contacted and they advised they had no information concerning the activities of COLIAFAM:

[REDACTED] b7c  
Military Intelligence, Jacksonville  
Contacted 6/22/70

[REDACTED] b7c  
Senior Resident Agent  
NISO, Naval Air Station, Jacksonville  
Contacted 6/25/70

[REDACTED] b7c  
OSI, Jacksonville  
Contacted 6/26/70

Appropriate sources were alerted concerning this matter and all advised they had no information concerning COLIAFAM.

E.O. 12812  
The wives of POWs' interviewed as set forth in this report, retained the original communications which they received from COLIAFAM and xerox copies were made for the purpose of this report.

Leads were set out by separate communications to have the families of POWs' interviewed, who have moved from the Jacksonville territory, as reflected in the details of this report. Also, a lead was previously set out to interview [REDACTED] of POW [REDACTED] who resides at [REDACTED]

b7c

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

Copy to:

Report of:  
Date:

Field Office File #:

Title:

Character:

Synopsis:

SA [REDACTED] b2c  
August 18, 1970

Office:

JACKSONVILLE

Bureau File #: 100-457899

POW/MIA EO 12812

9803 [REDACTED] 7-23-93

All

b2c

INTERNAL SECURITY - MISCELLANEOUS  
REGISTRATION ACT - NORTH VIETNAM9/2/82  
#229 b73

E.O. 12812

The "Florida Times-Union" newspaper, Jacksonville, Florida, dated 6/27/70, contained a list of names of POWs' in North Vietnam released by COLIAFAM, 13 of whom had addresses within territory covered by the Jacksonville office of the FBI. The wives of 10 of the POWs' were interviewed, including the following:

[REDACTED]

b2c

[REDACTED] All advised they received letters from COLIAFAM and some had telephone conversations with individual members of COLIAFAM. Copies of letters received by wives of POWS' from COLIAFAM set forth. Three wives of POWS' have moved to other localities.

- RUC -

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED~~  
~~HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED~~  
~~EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN~~  
~~BY SOURCE~~

## DETAILS:

The "Florida Times-Union" newspaper, Jacksonville, Florida, dated June 27, 1970, contained a list of American Prisoners of War (POW's) in North Vietnam, which was released by the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIAFAM).

JK 100-1419

The list contained the names of the following POWs' with addresses located within the territory covered by the Jacksonville office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

ROBERT BYRON FULLER, Serial Number 542942  
Jacksonville, Florida

WILSON DENVER KEY, Serial Number 669207  
Jacksonville, Florida

~~ABBS~~ CARL BOYETTE CRUMPLER, Serial Number 27705  
Orange Park, Florida

JOHN SIDNEY MC CAIN, Serial Number 624787  
Orange Park, Florida

DANNY E. GLENN, Serial Number 668152  
Jacksonville, Florida

JOHN HOWARD DUNN, Serial Number 059941  
Jacksonville, Florida

ROBERT BRUCE HINCKLEY, Serial Number 3146679  
Ft. Walton Beach, Florida

THOMAS JAMES STERLING, Serial Number FR 454755  
Ft. Walton Beach, Florida

KEITH NORMAN HALL, Serial Number FB 61501  
Ft. Walton Beach, Florida

DOUGLAS BRIAN PETERSON, Serial Number FR 54627  
Marianna, Florida

DEWEY WAYNE WADDELL, Serial Number 54772  
Ft. Walton Beach, Florida

WILLIAM MORGAN HARDMAN, Serial Number 625171  
Center Hill, Florida

THOMAS RENWICK HALL, JR., Serial Number 682719  
Pensacola, Florida

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 7/27/70

Mrs. [REDACTED] was interviewed at her residence at [REDACTED] Florida, at which time she furnished the following information.

Mrs. [REDACTED] is the wife of [REDACTED] United States Navy, who is a prisoner of war (POW) in North Vietnam.

The first contact Mrs. [REDACTED] had with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIAFAM) was in March 1970 when she received a letter from the organization. The letter indicated that a number of persons had been reported as POWs in North Vietnam, including [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] It was indicated that a packet of letters from the POWs including a letter from [REDACTED] was en route from North Vietnam and the letter from [REDACTED] would be forwarded to Mrs. [REDACTED] in the next week or two, as soon as it was received.

It was indicated in the letter from COLIAFAM that the POWs would be released only after the United States' withdrawal of all its forces involved. It was further stated that all American servicemen serving in Vietnam including those aboard ships are prisoners of an unjust war that their government has committed them to.

Mrs. [REDACTED] did not have a copy of the letter but believed the same letter was received by other families of POWs since it was mimeographed. Mrs. [REDACTED] stated she felt the letter was treasonous in view of the Anti-American statements mentioned above. She did not recall who was identified as the author of the letter.

On 7/13/70 at [REDACTED] Florida File # JK 100-1419

by SA [REDACTED] b7c Date dictated 7/20/70

[REDACTED] After a couple of weeks passed and Mrs. [REDACTED] did not receive the letter from her husband as promised by COLIAFAM she telephonically contacted the COLIAFAM Office in New York, New York. She did not recall who she talked to but she was advised that the packet of letters from the POWs had not been received as yet by COLIAFAM.

Mrs. [REDACTED] also telephonically contacted the American Friends Service Committee office in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and talked to STEWART MEACHAM, who is also listed on the letterhead of COLIAFAM correspondence as a member of this committee. The purpose of her call was to attempt to learn additional information concerning the location of the packet of letters from the POWs mentioned above. Mr. MEACHAM was unable to furnish any specific information concerning the packet of letters and the conversation did not relate to any other matters.

Mrs. [REDACTED] subsequently made a second call to the COLIAFAM Office in New York prior to May 1, 1970 to inquire about the packet of letters and to inform COLIAFAM that according to information released by the United States Government there were American POWs in North Vietnam other than those whose names were released by the committee. Mrs. [REDACTED] believed she talked to BARBARA WEBSTER, Staff Member of COLIAFAM on this occasion who indicated the packet of letters had not been received as yet.

Mrs. [REDACTED] advised she has had no further personal contact with members of COLIAFAM and that in each of the foregoing contacts the individuals with whom she spoke were courteous and sympathetic and made no attempt to intimidate her in any way. Persons connected with COLIAFAM made no statements to Mrs. [REDACTED] concerning their source of information or contacts.

JK 100-1419

3

E.O. 12812-2

On approximately May 1, 1970 Mrs. [REDACTED] received a letter from her husband, which had been promised by COLIAFAM. The letter had been written by her husband in January 1970 and was the first correspondence she had received since her husband became a POW in Julv. 1967. The letter was forwarded to Mrs. [REDACTED] by a mimeographed form letter from COLIAFAM. A copy of the COLIAFAM letter, which is undated and signed by BARBARA WEBSTER and MAGGIE GEDDES follows:

b2c

Fish

## **COMMITTEE OF LIAISON**

### **with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam**

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee  
Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter

\*Maggie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

6.0.12812-7

b2c

Dear Mu...:

We're very happy to forward this letter to you which just arrived from North Vietnam along with 82 others.

We know it's been a long time since you were informed that this letter was en route, but it's a long trip and we too are delighted that they've arrived.

Sincerely,

Barbara Webster Maggie Geddes

Barbara Webster Maggie Geddes  
for the Committee of Liaison

JK 100-1419

5

E.O. 14812-2

b2c

Mrs. [REDACTED] advised she received a letter dated May 4, 1970 from Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ of COLIAFAM along with an "air letter" form which could be used for correspondence with POWs. Copies of these two items follow:

# COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

## with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

May 4, 1970

Co-chairmen:

Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:

Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee

Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Moacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Tredi Young

\*staff

want to write.

The North Vietnamese authorities indicated that, from this point forward, they will not feel responsible for forwarding letters and packages that do not adhere to the above.

If the letter form is mailed directly it can go in another envelope but the mail route, "via Moscow, U.S.S.R.", should definitely be included in the address. If letters are sent to the Committee of Liaison for forwarding please enclose but do not affix stamps as we send letters on in packets. The Committee cannot forward packages for families.

While I was in Hanoi, Prof. Douglas Dowd of Cornell University and I met with three pilots: Cdr. Robert Schweitzer of Lemoore, California; Cdr. Walter Wilbur of Virginia Beach and Lt. Col. Edison Miller of Santa Ana, California. The three men were in good health, and said they had daily exercise and reading material. The three pilots advised us that they had been getting letters and packages from their

ED.  
Richard Fernandez memo - page 2

families, and asked that packages include toilet articles and canned foods. In particular they mentioned soap, shaving cream (no razors or blades), toothpaste, powdered milk and cream, instant coffee and non-melting candy. They said they do not need clothes.

Also, in my discussions with the Vietnam Committee of Solidarity with the American People, the Committee of Liaison's contact in North Vietnam, we confirmed that since December over 800 letters have been sent from Hanoi through the Committee of Liaison. Of those, 155 letters are still on their way from Hanoi to families here.

We hope that this information clarifies some aspects of correspondence for you. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

EDC

NGƯỜI GỬI (Addressor)

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):  
.....

SỐ LỆNH (Service number):  
.....

NƠI VÀ NGÀY SINH (Date & place of birth):  
.....

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

TRẠI GIAM PHI CÔNG MỸ BỊ BẮT TẠI  
NUỐC VIỆT - NAM DÂN CHỦ CỘNG HÒA  
VIA MOSCOW, USSR

(Camp of detention for U.S. pilots captured  
in the DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC of VIETNAM)

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

GỬI (Addressee)

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):  
.....

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):  
.....  
.....  
.....

EDU

NGÀY VIẾT (Dated).....

**GHİ CHÚ (N.B.):**

1. Phải viết rõ và chỉ được viết trên những dòng kẻ sẵn (Write legibly and only on the lines).
2. Trong thư chỉ được nói về tình hình sức khỏe và tình hình gia đình (Write only about health and family).
3. Gia đình gửi đến cũng phải theo đúng mẫu, khuôn khổ và quy định này (Letters from families should also conform to this proforms).

JK 100-1419

10

E.O.12812-2

Mrs. [REDACTED] received another mimeographed letter from COLIAFAM dated June 14, 1970 signed by BARBARA WEBSTER and enclosing a second letter from [REDACTED]. The letter from [REDACTED] was dated April 26, 1970. A copy of the foregoing letter from COLIAFAM follows:

b2c

# **COMMITTEE OF LIAISON**

**with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam**

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

June 14, 1970

Committee  
Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young  
  
\*staff

Dear friend:

We are very glad to send you the enclosed letter from North Vietnam. It, along with 142 others, was brought to this country by Jean Palomdon, Nancy Rubin and Judy Claver -- anti-war activists who spent two weeks in North Vietnam.

The letters were slightly delayed in getting here because all the material they brought back with them, including the letters, was confiscated by the Canadian Customs upon their arrival in Montreal. This was totally unexpected and unprecedented; but they generated enough pressure so that everything was returned to them.

There will be another group going to North Vietnam at the end of this month. If you would like them to take a letter from you, please send it to us in the next week or so.

Sincerely,  
Barbara Webster  
Barbara Webster

JK 100-1419

12

Mrs [REDACTED] has had no further contact or correspondence with COLIAFAM and has not forwarded any mail or packages to her husband through COLIAFAM but has forwarded mail through the American Friends Service Committee.

The only families known to Mrs [REDACTED] who have been contacted by COLIAFAM are Mrs [REDACTED]

Mrs. [REDACTED] Mrs. [REDACTED]

Mrs [REDACTED]

Mrs. [REDACTED]

all of [REDACTED]

and Mrs. [REDACTED]

Florida area.

Mrs [REDACTED] advised that she would not be willing to testify to the foregoing information if it would jeopardize her receiving mail from her husband. She stated she was a patriotic person but did not want to do anything that might interrupt the flow of mail from her husband.

E.O. 12812-2

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 7/27/70

Mrs [REDACTED] was interviewed at [REDACTED]  
 her residence, [REDACTED] at which time she furnished the following information:

Mrs [REDACTED] is the wife of [REDACTED] United States Navy, who is a  
 Prisoner of War (POW) in North Vietnam.

G.O. 128/2-1

Mrs [REDACTED] received a letter from her husband on Christmas Eve, 1969, which was forwarded to her by the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIAFAM). Mrs. [REDACTED] believed the letter from her husband was probably forwarded by a cover letter from COLIAFAM; however, she did not retain the cover letter and does not recall its contents. This was the first contact Mrs. [REDACTED] had with COLIAFAM. This was not, however, the first letter from her husband since she had received prior correspondence from him since he became a POW in November, 1967.

Mrs [REDACTED] received a mimeographed letter from COLIAFAM dated January 27, 1970 signed by MAGGIE GEDDES, which referred to a letter from North Vietnam previously forwarded by COLIAFAM. Mrs. [REDACTED] stated the letter from North Vietnam referred to would be the letter she received from her husband on Christmas Eve, 1969. The foregoing letter from COLIAFAM had included an "Information Sheet" dated January, 1970 explaining the work of COLIAFAM. A copy of the letter and its enclosure follow:

On 7/13/70 at [REDACTED] Florida File # JK 100-1419  
 by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 7/20/70

# COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

## with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

ABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee (in formation):  
Rennie Davis  
Rev. Richard Fernandez

\*Maggie Geddes  
\*Steve Halliwell  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
\*Trudi Young

\*staff

4.0.12.912-2  
b2c  
January 27, 1970

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]

We assume that by this time you have received the letter from North Vietnam which was forwarded to you by members of our Committee. We are enclosing an Information Sheet which explains the work of the Committee of Liaison.

The North Vietnamese have said that prisoners will be able to receive and send one letter a month. As noted in the Information Sheet, you may send letters directly to North Vietnam (note the mail address and route). If you would like us to forward them for you, please enclose but do not affix stamps as we will be sending them on in packets. We are also enclosing a letter form which you might wish to use, whether you send it directly or through us. Prisoners can also receive one package, not over six pounds in weight, every other month.

To insure the safe and rapid delivery of mail from prisoners, the North Vietnamese will send periodic packets of letters through our office. The letters will then be dispatched immediately to the families to whom they are addressed.

The only way to secure the eventual release of prisoners is through the decision by the United States to end the war. But in the meantime we are pleased to be able to assist in the communication between men and their families. We hope to forward letters on to you again soon.

Sincerely,

Maggie Geddes  
Maggie Geddes

## COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

*with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam*

365 West 42nd Street New York N.Y. 10036

212-765-1490

January, 1970

ED.

### INFORMATION SHEET

#### Co-chairmen:

Dave Dellinger  
Core Weiss

#### Treasurer:

Mrs. Anne Bennett

#### Committee (in formation):

Rennie Davis  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
"Maggie" Gaddis  
Steve Halliwell  
Stewart Moosham  
Prof. Ben Seftzman  
Ethel Taylor  
"Barbara" Webster  
Trudi Young  
"staff"

In the course of the Vietnam war, links have been built between the people of Vietnam and Americans who oppose the war through numerous meetings and conferences. These meetings have taken place in Europe, Canada, Cuba and Southeast Asia and have included people from both the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam) and the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam (now part of the Provisional Revolutionary Government).

In these meetings the Vietnamese have always stressed a distinction between the U.S. government, whom they hold responsible for the policy of war, and the U.S. people, whom they believe still value the goals upon which this country was founded--independence, justice, freedom and equality. This same distinction is evident to those Americans who have visited North Vietnam and found that even though the nation is armed to defend itself, the people are encouraged by their government to believe that the American people are basically decent and humane.

It is therefore understandable that the Vietnamese should indicate their basic confidence in the American people through the peace movement which they believe embodies American ideals, rather than the government. And in the past, the Vietnamese have asked the peace movement to receive U.S. servicemen--primarily pilots whose planes were shot down--when the North Vietnamese government has decided to release them. On three separate occasions--February 1968, July 1968 and July 1969--the peace movement has gone to Hanoi and returned with released servicemen; on one occasion an American peace activist went to Phnom Penh, Cambodia to receive three released NLF captives.

In addition, Americans visiting Hanoi have frequently carried letters there at the request of families, and have brought back letters from servicemen. There have also been occasions when American peace activists have met prisoners and talked with them.

#### Functions of the Committee

A Committee of Liaison has now been established as an extension of these past efforts at the request of the North Vietnamese. As on past occasions, the peace movement is responding to a request by the Vietnamese government to facilitate communication between families in the U.S. and servicemen now imprisoned in North Vietnam.

Basically, the Committee will receive letters from servicemen and forward them through the domestic mails, thereby decreasing, we hope, past problems in the receipt of such mail. We will also forward letters to North Vietnam at the request of relatives. Families are of course still free to send letters and parcels directly but should note that the instructions on mailing previously issued by the State Department are wrong. The correct address is:

name of serviceman  
serial number  
Camp of Detention of U.S. Pilots  
Captured in the D.R.V.  
Hanoi, Democratic Republic of Vietnam  
via Moscow, U.S.S.R.

In addition, it is possible that the Vietnamese will be able to verify . . . addition, it is possible that the Vietnamese will be able to verify

**INFORMATION SHEET - page 2**

requests for information about servicemen from families who are uncertain if their relatives are being held in North Vietnam. Requests should be submitted to the Committee, but there is no certainty when and if the North Vietnamese will be able to respond. The Committee will of course transmit immediately any information that it receives to the family.

**Clarification**

Two clarifications are in order: first, it should be noted that the Committee will be dealing solely with the government of North Vietnam and will not have any information on men held in South Vietnam by the Provisional Revolutionary Government. Nor will we be able to provide information at this time concerning men held in Laos or any other Southeast Asian country where U.S. troops and aircraft are presently involved in combat missions.

Secondly, the Committee will function entirely apart from the U.S. government. The U.S. government has frequently made it more difficult for the Vietnamese to be open to the concerns of American families by using the families' genuine desires as a propaganda ploy. The government has further attempted to provoke an angry response from the Vietnamese by publicizing unsubstantiated and inflammatory testimony from fliers already released: apparently, the government has decided to jeopardize existing communications and the possibility of future releases for the sake of propaganda aimed at prolonging the war. The North Vietnamese are also very aware that the U.S. government's claims of humanitarian concerns are contradicted by the well-documented policy of torture and brutality practiced on prisoners taken in the South by U.S. and Saigon troops.

In addition to all these factors, there is the simple fact that the resolution of the fate of all the servicemen now held in North Vietnam waits ultimately upon a U.S. decision to end the war and withdraw all its forces and materiel.

**Who We Are**

We firmly believe that the safe return of these men and the half million others that the U.S. maintains in South Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and aboard naval vessels--who can also be viewed as prisoners, prisoners of their own government since many have been sent to fight in a war against the dictates of their own conscience--can only come with a decision on the part of the U.S. government to withdraw from Vietnam. Because of this conviction, we who are serving on this Committee will continue our efforts to create popular pressure strong enough to force the government to withdraw.

We are active in a variety of organizations committed to ending the war: American Friends Service Committee, the New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, Clergy and Laymen Concerned about Vietnam, Women Strike for Peace, The Conspiracy, and Women Against Daddy Warbucks. The Committee is supported by donations from individuals and organizations, and welcomes any gifts to sustain its work.

JK 100-1419

5

E.O. 12812 - 3

b7c  
Mrs. [REDACTED] believed she received a second letter from COLIAFAM in about March of 1970 advising that a packet of letters was coming from North Vietnam, which included a letter from [REDACTED]

b7c  
After a couple of weeks passed and the letter from [REDACTED] did not arrive, Mrs. [REDACTED] telephonically contacted the COLIAFAM Office in New York and talked to an unknown woman who answered the telephone. Mrs. [REDACTED] inquired about the letter which was supposedly en route from her husband. Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that this occurred during the time of the mail strike in New York and the woman she talked to stated that the packet of letters had not been received.

b7c  
Mrs. [REDACTED] subsequently received the letter from her husband via a form cover letter from COLIAFAM which was undated and signed by BARBARA WEBSTER and MAGGIE GEDDES. The cover letter was identical to the undated letter signed by the foregoing individuals previously furnished by Mrs. [REDACTED]

b7c  
Mrs. [REDACTED] received a news release from COLIAFAM datelined, "Chicago, Jan. 15 ...", which she believed may have been received with the above mentioned letter. The foregoing news release is as follows:

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

365 West 42nd Street New York N.Y. 10036

212-765-1490

Cable address: COLIAFAM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Co-chairmen:

Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:

Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee (in formation):

Rennie Davis  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Maggie Gaddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Solzman  
Ethel Taylor  
Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young  
staff

COMMUNICATION WITH CAPTURED AIRMEN

ESTABLISHED BY NEW COMMITTEE:

LETTERS EN ROUTE NOW

Chicago, Jan. 15: In an unprecedented move, six anti-war activists announced today the formation of a Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam. The Committee will, according to Mrs. Cora Weiss, a co-chairman of the new group and a housewife from Riverdale, N.Y., "facilitate communication between servicemen held in North Vietnam and their relatives in the United States."

Specifically, "the Committee will receive letters from the captured American pilots," according to Mrs. Weiss, "and immediately forward them to the addressee. Also," she continued, "we will forward inquiries from families in the United States to the North Vietnamese authorities and they will attempt to confirm the status of their missing relatives."

According to Mrs. Weiss, "the North Vietnamese have agreed to send and receive one letter per month between airmen known to be held in North Vietnam and relatives in this country. Letters sent from the U.S.," she continued, "should be addressed to prisoner, serial number, Camp of Detention for U.S. Pilots Captured in the DRV, Hanoi, Democratic Republic of Vietnam, via Moscow, Soviet Union." Packages, Mrs. Weiss added, can be sent every other month and are not to exceed six pounds. Mrs. Weiss noted that the Committee will forward letters for the families to North Vietnam if requested by relatives to do so.

Dave Dellinger, the other co-chairman of the Committee and presently being tried on conspiracy charges in Chicago, outlined the background of previous prisoner releases to the American peace movement and said that "It is understandable that the North Vietnamese indicate their confidence in the American people through the peace movement in this way. We who are on this Committee," he continued, "firstly believe that the safe return of American pilots held in North Vietnam can only come from a decision on the part of the U.S. government to withdraw from Vietnam."

Mr. Dellinger decried the U.S. government for its ignoring the fate of thousands of prisoners in jails in South Vietnam who, with full knowledge and assistance of American personnel, are subjected to grotesque tortures, as has been frequently documented, most authoritatively by Congressman John Conyers and the Rev. Robert Drinan, Dean of Boston College Law School, in a recent survey of South Vietnamese prisons.

Another member of the Committee, Stewart Meacham, Peace Education Secretary of the American Friends Service Committee, said that "Lou Schneider of the AFSC has recently been given a packet of 69 letters in Hanoi from servicemen and those letters will soon arrive from Hong Kong in New York, and will immediately be sent to the addressees." Mr. Meacham said that "the 69 letters en route to the U.S. were written by 64 prisoners and the Committee can presently confirm the names of 182 airmen held by the North Vietnamese, or reported to be dead or unknown." Mr. Meacham emphasized that the list (available upon request) of 182 names was neither final nor comprehensive. He said that "while these names are known to us, there are undoubtedly others known to their families."

Other persons participating in the press conference included Rennie

Davis, a defendant in the conspiracy trial, the Rev. Richard Fernandez, Director of Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam, and Maggie Geddes and Trudie Young, staff members of the Committee.

In December 1969, Mrs. Cora Weiss and two other women, Ethel Taylor of Philadelphia and Madeleine Duckles of San Francisco, all active with Women Strike for Peace, came back from Hanoi with 138 letters from prisoners for Christmas. Mrs. Weiss said at the press conference that she had worked out the details for this Committee during this recent trip. Historically, the development of the Committee is unprecedented in time of war.

Other members of the Committee of Liaison not present at today's press conference include Mrs. Anne Bennett, Prof. Bea Seitzman, Steve Balliwell and Barbara Webster. The Committee's office is at 365 West 42nd Street, 2nd floor, New York, N.Y. (14)

--- 30 --- 30 --- 30 ---

Note: Since this release, 87 more letters from prisoners have been sent from North Vietnam for forwarding by the Committee.

## Antiwar Group Seen As Liaison To U.S. POWs

NEW YORK (AP) — An office to arrange and facilitate exchange of mail between American servicemen imprisoned in North Vietnam and their families will open here today, a group opposed to the war announced yesterday.

The office carries the name of the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, and its founders are Mrs. Cora Weiss and David Dellinger.

Mrs. Weiss said the organization has had numerous contacts with families of prisoners it hopes to aid. She said 60 letters from 64 servicemen, brought by hand to Hong Kong, were flown to Philadelphia Saturday, then mailed to the families.

She said the North Vietnamese had approved mail arrangements by which families could send one letter and one package of no more than six pounds each month to relatives held prisoner.

Mrs. Weiss, national head of the Women's Strike for Peace and a cochairman of the New Mobilization to End the War in Vietnam, returned recently from a trip to Hanoi.

Dellinger is one of the seven defendants being tried in Chicago on charges growing out of the disorders during the 1968 Democratic National Convention.

Mrs. Weiss said North Vietnamese officials have agreed to "Reply to the extent possible" to inquiries from families.

The office will be at 365 W. 42nd St., Mrs. Weiss said.

## Foes of War Form Group to Forward Letters to P.O.W.s

which will have offices at 365 West 42nd Street in New York City. She said the committee would then forward the letters to the prisoners' families.

Mrs. Weiss, who spent two weeks in North Vietnam in December, said the North Vietnamese had also agreed to answer inquiries from families of missing men and would "attempt to confirm their status."

Mrs. Weiss said this was the first time the North Vietnamese had agreed to answer such inquiries. She said the committee hoped for reasonably prompt responses.

Mrs. Weiss outlined the procedure for such inquiries. (She said the family of any missing man could contact the committee's New York office and ask it to approach Hanoi.)

She said the committee would send a telegram to North Vietnam, "assuring that Westinghouse Union will send our telegram—we've had some trouble with that."

If the prisoner has been confirmed killed or is unknown to the North Vietnamese, Mrs. Weiss said, Hanoi will respond by telegram; if the man was injured or in a prison camp, she said, the North Vietnamese would attempt to get the man to write his family through the committee.

With regard to mail from men known to be held in North Vietnam, Mrs. Weiss outlined the procedure to be followed. She said North Vietnam had agreed to send and receive one letter a month between prisoners and their relatives in the country.

Letters from the prisoners are to be sent in bundles to the committee's offices and then forwarded from there to the families.

from The New York Times, 1/16/70

E.O. 12813

JK 100-1419

8

Mr. [REDACTED] received a mimeographed letter from Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ of COLIAFAM, which was identical to the letter from Reverend FERNANDEZ previously furnished by Mrs. [REDACTED]

Mrs. [REDACTED] received a mimeographed letter from BARBARA WEBSTER of COLIAFAM dated May 13, 1970 enclosing a letter from Mrs. [REDACTED] husband. A copy of the foregoing letter from COLIAFAM follows:

# **COMMITTEE OF LIAISON**

**with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam**

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

May 13, 1970

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee  
Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Geddes  
Steve Holliswell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

Dear friend:

Today we received two packages of letters which we have been expecting from prisoners held in North Vietnam. The total number of letters in both packages was 155. Although the packages were mailed a month apart, they both arrived here today.

We are very happy to send herewith the letter addressed to you.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Webster*  
Barbara Webster

-23-

JK 100-1419

10

*b7c*

Mrs. [REDACTED] received another mimeographed letter from COLIAFAM dated June 14, 1970 signed by BARBARA WEBSTER and enclosing a letter from [REDACTED]. This letter from COLIAFAM was identical to a letter previously furnished by Mrs. [REDACTED]

E.O. 12812 - 2

*b7c*

Mrs. [REDACTED] received information from the Legal Officer at the Naval Air Station, Cecil Field, Jacksonville, Florida that Reverend FERNANDEZ, mentioned above and a group of others were going to North Vietnam, and she could forward mail with this group if she desired. As a result, Mrs. [REDACTED] sent a letter to her husband via Reverend FERNANDEZ. Mrs. [REDACTED] has forwarded all other mail to her husband through regular mail.

*b7c*

Mrs. [REDACTED] advised she has had no other contact with COLIAFAM and has not been harassed or cajoled by COLIAFAM.

*b7c*

Mrs. [REDACTED] knew of no additional families contacted by COLIAFAM other than Mrs. [REDACTED].  
Mrs. [REDACTED] Mrs. [REDACTED]  
Mrs. [REDACTED] and Mrs. [REDACTED]  
all of [REDACTED] Florida area.

*b7c*

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated she would have to withhold all decisions regarding the possibility of giving testimony in this matter since she did not want to take any action which might disrupt the flow of letters from her husband. Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she did not agree with COLIAFAM but nonetheless did not want to do anything that would be possibly detrimental to her husband.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 7/27/70

E.O. 12812-2

Mrs. [REDACTED] was interviewed at her residence.

[REDACTED] Florida, at which time she furnished the following information:

Mrs. [REDACTED] is the wife of [REDACTED] United States Air Force, who has been a Prisoner of War (POW) since [REDACTED] 1968.

The first contact Mrs. [REDACTED] had with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen detained in North Vietnam (COLIAFAM) was in March, 1970 when she received a letter dated March 9, 1970 from CORA WEISS and DAVE DELLINGER, Co-chairmen of COLIAFAM, advising that a letter from her husband had been mailed from North Vietnam. A copy of the foregoing letter follows:

On 7/14/70 at [REDACTED] Florida File # JK 100-1419

by E.O. 12812-2  
SA  
SA

Date dictated 7/29/70

-25-

# COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

## with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee (in formation):

Rennie Davis  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
\*Maggie Geddes  
\*Steve Halliwell  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
\*Trudi Young

\*staff

Dear Mo [REDACTED] b2c

4.0.12 917-2

March 9, 1970

We have just received word from Hanoi that a letter from [REDACTED] to you has been mailed from North Vietnam and is expected to arrive here shortly, perhaps in the next week or two. As soon as it arrives, along with 86 others in the same package, we will send it to you immediately. Please forgive the mimeographed letter but we wanted you to know right away, particularly the large number of families for whom this will be the first letter.

As a result of arrangements made with the North Vietnamese, mail from captured pilots will be sent to this office in bundles for remailing to families. The Committee of Liaison, which includes members of various anti-war organizations, also forwards letters to captured pilots, although families are able to send letters, once per month, and a package, of six pounds or less every other month, directly. Both letters and packages should be addressed to:

Name of serviceman, serial number  
Camp of Detention of U.S. Pilots Captured  
in the D.R.V.  
Hanoi, Democratic Republic of Vietnam  
via Moscow, U.S.S.R.

We understand that three more packages of mail are on their way and as has been announced by the postmaster general of Hanoi, in all, 318 letters are expected in this period. Since December we have forwarded 266 letters; and as of this mailing we have official confirmation of 219 servicemen held by the North Vietnamese.

We are very pleased to be able to perform this service and hope that you will feel free to be in touch with us if you have any questions. In the meantime we continue to work for the immediate and complete withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Vietnam; to bring an end to the fighting, killing and capturing and to hasten the day when all families will be reunited, American and Vietnamese.

Sincerely yours,

Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss Dave Dellinger  
-26-

JK 100-1419

3

Mrs. [REDACTED] b7c did not receive the letter from her husband as promised so she telephonically contacted the COLTAFAM Office in New York and talked to BARBARA WEBSTER, who apologized for the delay. WEBSTER stated that they were checking and as soon as the packet of letters arrived from North Vietnam she would call Mrs. [REDACTED]

E.O. 12813 2  
Mrs. [REDACTED] received a telephone call on about April 29, 1970 from WEBSTER advising the packet of letters was received and the letter from her husband was forwarded that same day. A couple of days later Mrs. [REDACTED] still had not received the letter but she learned that Mrs. [REDACTED] had received a letter from her husband through COLTAFAM. As a result, Mrs. [REDACTED] called either CORA WEISS or ETHEL TAYLOR of COLTAFAM at home on a Sunday to get the postal registration number on the letter since it had been reportedly forwarded by registered mail. Someone gave Mrs. [REDACTED] the telephone number of one of the foregoing individuals; but she did not remember who gave her the number or which one she called. The person Mrs. [REDACTED] called told her that they would check on the matter and call her back. They subsequently called back but in the meantime Mrs. [REDACTED] received the letter from her husband. Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that in each of the foregoing telephone conversations the persons with whom she talked were friendly, sympathetic, and compassionate and she was not harassed or cajoled in any way.

b7c  
b7c

JK 100-1419

4

b7c  
Mrs. [REDACTED] received another mimeographed letter from COLIAFAM dated June 14, 1970 signed by BARBARA WEBSTER, which included a letter from [REDACTED]. The letter from COLIAFAM was identical to the letter of the same date previously furnished by Mrs. [REDACTED]

6.0.12812-2

b7c

Mrs. [REDACTED] moved from her former address of [REDACTED] to her present address and sent a letter to COLIAFAM advising them of the change and enclosed a birthday greeting to be forwarded to her husband. Mrs. [REDACTED] received a handwritten note from BARBARA WEBSTER dated July 8 (no year), acknowledging the change of address. A copy of this letter follows.

**COMMITTEE OF LIAISON**

**with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam**

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

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Committee  
Richard J. Barnett  
Ronnie Davis  
Modeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

E.O. 12812, 7-8

b2c July 8

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]

We received your change of address notice on June 30<sup>th</sup>. I assume that the letter we mailed you on the 14<sup>th</sup> was forwarded to your new address. But just wanted to make sure in case you haven't received it and need to check with the post office.

Sincerely  
Barbara Webster

JK 100-1419

6

Just prior to Christmas, 1969 Mrs. [REDACTED] sent a letter to her husband through STEWART MEACHAM of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). At the time she wrote this letter Mrs. [REDACTED] had not received confirmation that her husband was a POW in North Vietnam and she had not been contacted by COLIAFAM. STEWART MEACHAM is listed on the letterhead of COLIAFAM as a member of the committee. In about March 1970 Mrs. [REDACTED] was notified by the Casualty Section, Naval Air Station, Cecil Field, Jacksonville, that Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ of the AFSC was planning a trip to North Vietnam and she forwarded a letter to her husband through Reverend FERNANDEZ. Reverend FERNANDEZ is also listed on the letterhead of COLIAFAM as a member of the committee.

b7c

E.O. 12812-2

Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that she has sent all other mail through regular channels and has had no contacts with COLIAFAM other than those described above.

b7c

The only families known to Mrs. [REDACTED] who have been contacted by COLIAFAM are Mrs. [REDACTED] Mrs. [REDACTED] and Mrs. [REDACTED] all of [REDACTED] Florida area.

b7c

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she did not agree with the activities of COLIAFAM; however, she would like to withhold her decision regarding testimony in this matter since she would not want to do anything to cut off the receipt of letters from her husband.

-30-

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

7/31/70

Date

Mrs. [REDACTED] was interviewed at her residence at [REDACTED] at which time she furnished the following information:

Mrs. [REDACTED] the wife of [REDACTED] United States Navy, who is a Prisoner of War (POW) in North Vietnam.

Mrs. [REDACTED] has received three or four letters from her husband which were forwarded by the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIAFAM). She received the first letter about March or April, 1970. All of the letters were forwarded by mimeographed cover letter from COLIAFAM. Mrs. [REDACTED] did not retain copies of any of the COLIAFAM letters and she did not recall the contents of letters, however, did not consider them intimidating.

Mrs. [REDACTED] was aware that her husband was a POW prior to receiving any communication from COLIAFAM and she had received several letters from him prior to being contacted by COLIFAM.

Mrs. [REDACTED] has had no personal contact with COLIFAM and has not been harassed or cajoled in any way. Mrs. [REDACTED] has not forwarded any mail to her husband through COLIFAM.

Mrs. [REDACTED] received the following telegram dated August 9, 1969:

On 7/17/70 at [REDACTED] Florida File # JK 100-1419  
 by SA [REDACTED] SA [REDACTED] b7c Date dictated 7/24/70

JK 100-1419

2

"MRS [REDACTED] b2c

"LAST MONTH I WAS INVITED TO TRAVEL TO NORTH VIETNAM TO ESCORT HOME THREE AMERICAN PRISONERS WHO HAD BEEN RELEASED BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE; WHILE IN HANOI, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT HANDED OVER TO ME SEVERAL UNSEALED MESSAGE FORMS FROM OTHER AMERICANS STILL IN THE CAMPS FOR TRANSMITTAL TO THEIR FAMILIES IN THE STATES. BELOW IS THE TEXT OF THE MESSAGE:

"MY DARLING, I AM STILL IN GOOD HEALTH AND HOPE TO BE WITH YOU. HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, DEAR. I PRAY THAT THIS WILL BE THE LAST ONE THAT WE ARE APART. PLEASE TELL ALL THE FAMILY NOT TO WORRY ABOUT ME. I KNOW THEY ARE VERY BUSY. I LOVE YOU, HONEY.

9 JULY 1969 THE ORIGINAL MESSAGE IS BEING SENT TO YOU AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE.  
PENNY C. DAVIS."

E.O. 12812 - 2

Mrs [REDACTED] b2c noted that the name of the person sending the telegram is obviously misspelled and she presumed this person to be RENEE DAVIS, who is listed on the letterhead of COLIAFAM as a member of this organization. Mrs [REDACTED] stated she resented the message from her husband being forwarded in the foregoing manner. She advised that at the time she received the above telegram she had not heard of COLIAFAM and as far as she knew, the organization was not in existence at this time.

Jad -

E.O. 12812-2  
JK 100-1419

3

Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that she did not know of any other families contacted by COLIAFAM other than Mrs. [REDACTED] b2c Mrs. [REDACTED]

Mrs. [REDACTED] and Mrs. [REDACTED]

Mrs. [REDACTED] b2c stated she would be willing to testify in this matter in the event her testimony is needed at a later date. She stated she was opposed to the activities of the committee and did not desire to have any dealings with them.

-123-

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 7/31/70

Mrs. [REDACTED] was interviewed  
 at her residence at [REDACTED]  
 at which time she furnished the following information:

Mrs. [REDACTED] is the wife of [REDACTED]  
 United States Navy, who is a Prisoner of War (POW) in North Vietnam.

*E.O. 12812-2*  
 Mrs. [REDACTED] received a telephone call from ETHEL TAYLOR of the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIAFAM) on December 21, 1969 advising that CORA WEISS, Co-chairman of COLIAFAM, was returning from North Vietnam with a packet of letters from POWs in North Vietnam and a letter from [REDACTED] was included in the packet. Mrs. [REDACTED] stated the US Government had previously reported her husband was a POW, but this was the first confirmation received from North Vietnam that her husband was a prisoner.

Mrs. [REDACTED] telephonically contacted CORA WEISS the next day to make sure her current address was on the letter from her husband since she had been residing in Massachusetts prior to the time her husband became a POW. Mrs. [REDACTED] subsequently received a letter from her husband as promised.

Mrs. [REDACTED] made a trip to Paris, France in the latter part of December 1969 along with the families of other POWs for the purpose of contacting the North Vietnam delegation engaged in the Paris Peace Talks. The trip was sponsored by Mr. ROSS PEROU, a Texas millionaire. She made a subsequent trip with Mr. PEROU in April 1970 to South Vietnam and Laos. While in Laos she talked to a representative

On 7/17/70 at [REDACTED] Florida File # JK 100-1419

by SA [REDACTED] SA [REDACTED] *b7c* Date dictated 7/24/70

JK 100-1419

2

of the government of North Vietnam and also talked to Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ, who is a member of COLIAFAM. Reverend FERNANDEZ indicated that COLIAFAM also had trouble communicating with the government of North Vietnam and had to cope with this problem.

Mrs. [REDACTED] advised she has had a number of telephonic conversations with Reverend FERNANDEZ, CORA WEISS, and ETHEL TAYLOR in an effort to learn more information concerning her husband.

[REDACTED] and Mrs. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] heard that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] were reportedly photographed by a French photographer who was in North Vietnam and who subsequently tried to sell the photographs to Life magazine. Mrs. [REDACTED] called and wrote to CORA WEISS inquiring about [REDACTED] and WEISS stated she would try to find out about them.

E.O. 12812 - 2  
FBI Mrs. [REDACTED] subsequently learned from a friend [REDACTED] of Time and Life magazines that [REDACTED] had furnished photographs of [REDACTED] to Life magazine; but the magazine refused to print them. [REDACTED] gave Mrs. [REDACTED] copies of the photographs which she in turn made available to Naval Intelligence.

JK 100-1419

3

E.O. 12812-2

Mrs [REDACTED] advised she received the  
following hand written letter from CORA WEISS  
dated May 9, 1970 which related to Mrs [REDACTED]  
inquiry concerning [REDACTED]

b2c

b7c

- (E) -

8022 WALDO AVENUE • RIVERDALE, NEW YORK 10471

5/9/70

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED] b2a

E.O. 13812 - 2

I'm terribly sorry your letter  
has been unanswered for so long —  
my excuses are probably not good enough.  
Anyway, I suggest you write

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
He is [REDACTED]  
Who either sold, or tried to sell  
The pictures to life. I understand

A.O. 12812-2

Life is not going to run them. It's all very confusing. If your letter comes back, that is, if the address is not current, send it to [REDACTED]

b2c

[REDACTED] She will forward it to him. But try [REDACTED] first.

b2c  
Good luck. [REDACTED] is a nice guy and knows Vietnam well, he's been there.

The sooner we pull out, the sooner [REDACTED] b2c will be home, and I hope for you, and lots of others. That will be very very soon. Keep in touch.

Corainde

JK 100-1419

6

b7c  
Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that in her contacts with members of COLIAFAM no attempt has been made to harass or intimidate her in any way. Mrs. [REDACTED] indicated she felt the committee was performing a worthwhile service which the United States Government had not been able to accomplish.

b7c  
Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that in addition to the foregoing contacts with COLIAFAM she had also received the following correspondence:

b7c  
Mrs. [REDACTED] received an undated mimeographed letter signed by BARBARA WEBSTER and MAGGIE GEDDES of COLIAFAM which enclosed a letter from her husband [REDACTED]. The letter from COLIAFAM was similar to the undated letter signed by the foregoing individuals previously furnished by Mrs. [REDACTED]

b7c  
Mrs. [REDACTED] received a mimeographed letter dated March 25, 1970 from CORA WEISS and DAVE DELLINGER, Co-chairmen of COLIAFAM, a copy of which follows:

# COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

*4,0-12917-2*

## with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

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COLIAFAM

Co-chairmen:  
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Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee (in formation):

Rennie Davis  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
\*Maggie Geddes  
\*Steve Holliswell  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
\*Trudi Young

\*staff

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]

b2c March 25, 1970

b2c

We have just received word from Hanoi that [REDACTED] a letter from [REDACTED] has been mailed to you from North Vietnam. His name was included in a list of 80 servicemen just received; this list represents advance notice of 82 letters mailed together in a package due to arrive soon. As soon as it comes, we will forward it to you. Forgive this mimeographed communication, but we wanted you to know as quickly as possible.

The Committee of Liaison was set up to facilitate communication between men who are held in North Vietnam and their families in this country. You may be interested to know that since this new arrangement was made with the North Vietnamese in December, 376 letters have been sent from Hanoi through us to families, and that as of this current notification 256 servicemen have been confirmed as held by the North Vietnamese. More mail is en route and it is expected that mail will soon be normalized.

The arrangement for mail is described in the announcement enclosed. We are very pleased to be able to perform this service and hope that you will feel free to be in touch with us should you have further questions. In the meantime we continue to work for the immediate and complete withdrawal of all troops from Vietnam; to bring to an end the fighting, killing and capturing; and to hasten the day when all families, American and Vietnamese will be reunited.

Sincerely yours,

*Cora Weiss Dave Dellinger*  
Cora Weiss Dave Dellinger

JK 100-1419

8

*b7c*  
Mrs. [REDACTED] received a mimeographed letter dated May 4, 1970 from Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ which is identical to the letter of the same date previously furnished by Mrs. [REDACTED]

*b7c*  
Mrs. [REDACTED] received a mimeographed letter dated May 13, 1970 from BARBARA WEBSTER which is identical to the letter of the same date previously furnished by Mrs. [REDACTED]

*b7c*  
Mrs. [REDACTED] received a mimeographed letter dated June 14, 1970 from BARBARA WEBSTER which is identical to the letter of the same date previously furnished by Mrs. [REDACTED]

*b7c*  
Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that she would not testify in this matter as long as there was any possibility that it might jeopardize her receiving mail from her husband.

*b7c*  
Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that she did not know of any families in the Jacksonville area contacted by COLIAFAM other than Mrs. [REDACTED]  
Mrs. [REDACTED] Mrs. [REDACTED]  
Mrs. [REDACTED] and Mrs. [REDACTED]

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

8/10/70

Date

Mrs. [REDACTED] was interviewed in [REDACTED]  
 the [REDACTED] where she is  
 employed. At which time furnished the following  
 information:

Mrs. [REDACTED] resides at [REDACTED]  
 Jacksonville, and is the wife of [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED] United States Marine Corps, who  
 has been a Prisoner of War (POW) since [REDACTED] 1965.

Mrs. [REDACTED] received a telephone call [REDACTED]  
 on April 3, 1970 from her father-in-law [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Arizona,  
 advising that he had received a telephone call from  
 the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen  
 Detained in North Vietnam (COLIAFAM). He stated  
 that COLIAFAM wanted to know Mrs. [REDACTED] telephone [REDACTED]  
 number, which he gave the caller. That same evening  
 Mrs. [REDACTED] received a telephone call from BARBARA  
 WEBSTER, Staff Member of COLIAFAM, New York, New York.  
 WEBSTER stated that she had talked to Mrs. [REDACTED]  
 father-in-law earlier in the day. She stated that  
 Reverend, RICHARD FERNANDEZ of COLIAFAM had brought [REDACTED] 62c  
 back a list of American POWs from North Vietnam  
 and [REDACTED] name was on the list.  
 She also advised that a packet of letters from  
 POWs including a letter from [REDACTED] 62c  
 [REDACTED] was on the way from North Vietnam and that  
 the letter from [REDACTED] would be  
 forwarded to Mrs. [REDACTED] as soon as it arrived. Mrs.  
 [REDACTED] thanked WEBSTER for bringing this information  
 to her.

On 7/28/70 at [REDACTED] Florida File # JK 100-1419  
 by SA [REDACTED] SA [REDACTED] 62c Date dictated 8/4/70

JK 100-1419

2

E.O. 12811-7

Mrs. [REDACTED] had previously been advised by the United States Marine Corps that there was reason to believe that her husband was alive but this was the first confirmation that he was a POW.

Mrs. [REDACTED] received a mimeographed letter dated April 7, 1970 from CORA WEISS and DAVE DELLINGER, Co-chairmen of COLIAFAM, which also enclosed an information sheet concerning COLIAFAM. A copy of the foregoing letter and information sheet follow:

- HLG -

~~COMMITTEE OF LIAISON~~

~~with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam~~

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

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Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young  
  
\*staff

60-12812-2  
April 7, 1970

Dear Mr. [REDACTED] b2c

Our Committee has recently received official confirmation of 81 more servicemen being held in North Vietnam. By now you should have

heard that [REDACTED] b2c  
is on this list. The North Vietnamese have now confirmed through the Committee of Liaison a total of 335 men being held.

This notification also means that a letter is en route from him. The enclosed release explains how mail is forwarded via our office. Because mail from Hanoi is very slow we cannot be sure when the letter will come, but we will forward it as soon as it arrives here.

We are very pleased to be able to perform this service and hope that you will feel free to be in touch with us should you have any questions.

At the same time, we are continuing to work towards the immediate and complete withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Southeast Asia so that soon all families, American and Vietnamese, can be united again.

Sincerely,

*Cora Weiss Dave Dellinger*  
Cora Weiss Dave Dellinger

of course my heart jumped into  
my mouth when I saw the envelope--  
just wonder how many more will  
be showing up-- the promised  
mail from [REDACTED]

b1v P.S. Kindly excuse the mimeographed  
letter, but there are many families to  
reach at the same time.

created by the North Vietnamese and is an extension of previous efforts. It is not in any sense representing the government of North Vietnam.

Since 1965 there have been a number of meetings between people of Vietnam (from both the North and the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam) and Americans who oppose the war. On three separate occasions representatives of the American anti-war movement have gone to Hanoi and have returned with released servicemen. On one occasion an American peace activist went to Phnom Penh, Cambodia, to receive three American soldiers who were released by the National Liberation Front. Americans visiting Hanoi have frequently carried letters to captured servicemen at the request of their families and they have brought back letters when they have returned to the United States. On several occasions such visitors from the peace movement have met with captured pilots in Hanoi.

#### The Committee

The Committee of Liaison believes that the safe return of U.S. servicemen captured in North Vietnam and the half-million others that the United States maintains in South Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, and aboard naval vessels can only come with a decision on the part of the U.S. government to completely withdraw from Vietnam. Because of this conviction, we who are serving on this Committee will also continue our efforts aimed at the immediate and complete withdrawal of all U.S. armed forces and weapons.

As individuals Committee members are active in a variety of organizations and groups committed to ending the war: the New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, The Conspiracy, Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam, U.S. Inter-religious Committee on Peace, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Newsreel, Women Against Daddy Warbucks, Lawyers Committee on Vietnam, and Women Strike for Peace.

The Committee of Liaison is entirely dependent on donations from individuals and organizations, and welcomes any gifts to sustain its work.

# *with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam*

265 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. A036

(212) 765-1490

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COLIAFAN

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
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\*Maggie Goddes  
\*Steve Halliwell  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Leo Saltzman  
Ethel Taylor  
Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

Captured servicemen may receive one letter a month and one package (not over six pounds in weight) every other month. The Committee does not forward packages. It is suggested that letters sent to the Committee for forwarding be sealed and that stamps be enclosed (not affixed) as letters are forwarded in packets.

The Committee is only able to be of help with respect to men who have been shot down over North Vietnam.

The Committee also is able to request information regarding the status of men thought to have been shot down over North Vietnam and captured there. For such inquiries the Committee needs to have the individual's service number, and any available information as to when and where he was shot down. With respect to such requests the Committee would expect to receive a letter to his family if the individual is being held in North Vietnam. If the individual is known to be dead or if the North Vietnamese have no information regarding him, the Committee expects to receive that word to the extent possible. In any case the Committee will communicate with the family concerned as soon as it receives word. In this way we expect that, as Xuan Thuy, head of the North Vietnamese delegation in Paris, has said, gradually all families of servicemen held in North Vietnam will bear from their rela-

## Background

The Committee of Liaison has been established in response to an initiative

- 5 -

JK 100-1419

6

E.O. 12812-2

Mrs. [REDACTED] wrote a letter to COLIAFAM dated April 30, 1970 offering to make a contribution to COLIAFAM if she received a letter she could identify as being written by her husband. Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she tried to word her letter in such a way as to not indicate her approval of COLIAFAM and at the same time not discourage any assistance they might be able to render with regard to information concerning her husband.

A copy of Mrs. [REDACTED] letter follows:

b2c

30 April 1970

C O P Y

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR LIAISON WITH  
FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM:

b2c  
While a certain measure of comfort was derived from your message about my husband [REDACTED] I am sure you can understand that the absence of specific information or any word from him for nearly five years leaves a margin for skepticism. On the other hand, my hope would be greatly strengthened and I would certainly have at least a small degree of peace of mind concerning him if I were to receive a letter I could identify as having been written by him.

E.O. 12812-2

If I do receive mail through your organization, I will contribute financially in appreciation of what you have been doing and will continue to do for the servicemen and their families. There are many who seriously question the morality of the Vietnam involvement, and any alleviation of the anxiety suffered is a very real service.

[REDACTED]  
Pla.

b2c

JK 100-1419  
8

Ex-12812-2

Mrs [REDACTED] then received a hand written letter dated May 6, (no year) from BARBARA WEBSTER advising COLIAFAM does not expect or want families to feel they should send money in exchange for letters or information. A copy of WEBSTER's letter follows:

# COMMITTEE OF 100

## with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

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Co-chairmen:  
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Coro Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

### Committee

- Richard J. Barnett
- Rennie Davis
- Madeline Duckles
- Prof. Richard Falk
- Rev. Richard Fernandez
- Norman Fruchter
- \*Maggie Geddes
- Steve Holliswell
- Prof. Donald Kalish
- Stewart Meacham
- Prof. Bea Seitzman
- Prof. Franz Schurmann
- Ethel Taylor
- \*Barbara Webster
- Trudi Young

\*staff

6011812/78

b2c

May 6

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]

We have received an advance list of 69 letters, including one for you from your husband, which were mailed on Feb. 14 from Hanoi. Mail from there is quite slow and erratic - a package of 87 letters was mailed Jan. 11 and didn't arrive here until April 30 - so we can't tell when the Feb. 14 package will come. But we will, of course, forward it on as soon as it does.

While we do appreciate contributions (that's how we exist) we most definitely do not expect or want families to feel they should send money in exchange for letters or information. We have absolutely no control, and certainly don't want any one who gets letters but merely forward on each and every letter that comes in.

Sincerely,

Barbara Webster

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-10-

JK 100-1419

10

E.O. 12812 - 2

Mrs. [REDACTED] received a mimeographed letter dated May 4, 1970 from Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ of COLIAFAM. This letter was identical to a letter of the same date previously furnished by Mrs. [REDACTED]

Mrs. [REDACTED] received the letter from her husband as previously promised by COLIAFAM on approximately May 13, 1970. About one week later Mrs. [REDACTED] sent COLIAFAM a check for \$20 and a note in which she stated that COLIAFAM had done her a very great service.

Mrs. [REDACTED] then received a hand written letter from BARBARA WEBSTER dated May 25, 1970 acknowledging receipt of the contribution. WEBSTER also wrote that the increased flow of communication is a result of the initiative of the North Vietnamese and, "we exist at their request." A copy of the letter from WEBSTER follows:

# COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

## with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee  
Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Geddes  
Steve Holliswell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

C O P Y

60.12812

May 25, 1970

b2c

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]

Thank you very much for your generous contribution - it will certainly help toward our fairly high postage and telephone expenses.

While we are, of course, very glad to be of help in this increased flow of communication, in fact it is solely the North Vietnamese' ~~initiative~~ and we exist at their request.

Don't hesitate to let us know if you would like more letter forms

Sincerely,

Barbara Webster

- Col -

JK 100-1419

12

Mrs. [REDACTED] <sup>b2</sup> advised that she had not been harassed or cajoled by COLIAFAM.

Mrs. [REDACTED] <sup>b2</sup> has had no further contact with COLIAFAM. She has sent letters to her husband directly through normal channels and has not utilized the services of COLIAFAM.

Mrs. [REDACTED] did not know of any additional families contacted by COLIAFAM other than Mrs. [REDACTED]

Mrs. [REDACTED] <sup>b7c</sup> and Mrs. [REDACTED] <sup>b7c</sup> all of the Jacksonville area.

Mrs. [REDACTED] <sup>b2</sup> stated she would testify in this matter if needed; however, she would rather not do so since she did not want to do anything which might interfere with her receiving letters from her husband. Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that she believed communists were behind COLIAFAM and she did not approve of COLIAFAM but nonetheless COLJAFAM had provided her with a letter from her husband and she did not want to take any action to block communication with him.

E.O. 12813 - 7

- 17 -

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date July 28, 1970

Mrs. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Florida, was interviewed by Special Agent [REDACTED], and Special Agent [REDACTED] who at the outset of the interview identified themselves to Mrs. [REDACTED] as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that she is the wife of [REDACTED] United States Air Force. She stated that her husband is currently a Prisoner of War (POW) in North Vietnam.

mR.3.

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that her husband's airplane was shot down over North Vietnam in [REDACTED] 1967 and she had not heard from him until [REDACTED] 1970. She stated that in [REDACTED] 1970, she received a telephone call from Colonel GRATCH, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, at which time he stated that she would be receiving a letter from her husband, who is a Prisoner of War in North Vietnam, since his name had been listed in a press release released the previous day by the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM).

E.O. 12812-2

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that the following day she received a telephone call from ETHEL TAYLOR, an officer in COLIFAM, who also advised her that she would be receiving the letter from her husband.

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that the conversation between Mrs. TAYLOR and her was very short and she does not recall anything else mentioned in the conversation other than the fact that she was to receive the letter within the next few days. She stated that she did receive a letter shortly thereafter from her husband, and this letter actually had in it one letter and two cards from him. She stated that on April 22, 1970, she received another letter from her husband through COLIFAM which contained two separate letters written by him.

On 7/17/70 at [REDACTED] Florida file # JK 100-1419  
 SA's [REDACTED] and b2c E.O. 12812-2  
 by \_\_\_\_\_ Date dictated 7/22/70

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

-15-

JK 100-1419

2

She stated that she received an additional letter from her husband through COLIFAM on May 15, 1970; and this is the last letter that she has received. She stated that the last letter received from him, which she obtained on May 15, 1970, was actually written by him just before Christmas, 1969.

Mrs. [REDACTED] <sup>b2</sup> stated that she has never been harassed or cajoled by the organization other than the fact that she has received a number of letters from them which arrived with the letters from her husband. She then made available the letters received by her from COLIFAM which followed the first letter from her husband in January, 1970. One letter was dated January 27, 1970, addressed to her, from MAGGIE GEDDES; and the second one was an Information Sheet, dated January, 1970, from COLIFAM, setting forth background of the organization. The letter received from her husband in May, 1970, contained a letter from the organization dated May 4, 1970, from Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ, mainly concerned with his visit to Vietnam in April, 1970.

E.O. 12812  
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With the letter she received from her husband on May 15, 1970, an additional letter, dated May 13, 1970, from the COLIFAM, signed BARBARA WEBSTER, was received, which merely indicated that they were pleased to have been able to forward to her the letter from her husband.

Mrs. [REDACTED] <sup>b2</sup> stated that she has not been personally contacted by any member of COLIFAM since the telephone call she received from Mrs. ETHEL TAYLOR in January, 1970.

Mrs. [REDACTED] <sup>b2</sup> stated that the only items she has received from her husband through COLIFAM are the aforementioned letters. She stated that she has not forwarded any mail or any other object to her husband through this organization and is still sending her mail directly to her husband through the normal channels. She stated that she does not know whether her husband is receiving any of the mail she has forwarded through regular channels since January, 1970, since the last

- 55 -

JK 100-1419

3

letter she received from him was dated in December, 1969.

Mrs. [REDACTED] b7c stated that the following wives of POW's are currently residing in [REDACTED] Florida, area:

[REDACTED] wife of [REDACTED] b7c

Florida;

Mrs. [REDACTED] wife of [REDACTED] b7c

Florida;

Mrs. [REDACTED] wife of [REDACTED] b7c

Florida;

Mrs. [REDACTED] wife of [REDACTED] b7c

E.O. 12812-2

Mrs. [REDACTED] b7c stated that she does not agree with the philosophy and ideals of the COLIFAM and therefore will not deal with them. She stated that she could not testify against them in any court proceedings since, even though she does not agree with their activities, so far they have been the only source by which she has received any communications from her husband.

Mrs. [REDACTED] b7c stated that if her husband is released and returned to this country, then she would consider testifying against COLIFAM, if agreeable with her husband.

Mrs. [REDACTED] b7c stated that to her it is disgraceful that this organization is using the wives of the POW's in order to further their own cause against the war in Vietnam.

JK 100-1419

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b7c

Mr. [REDACTED] stated that if she receives any further communications from COLIFAM or is contacted personally by any member of the organization, she will immediately notify the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

b7c

Copies of the letters furnished by Mrs. [REDACTED] which she received from COLIFAM, are as follows:

E.O. 12813-2

**COMMITTEE OF L-I-S-O-N**  
**with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam**

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

6.0.17912-2

January 27, 1970

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee (in formation):  
Ronnie Davis  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
\*Maggie Geddes  
\*Steve Halliwell  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
\*Trudi Young  
  
\*staff

Dear MAS [REDACTED] b2c

We assume that by this time you have received the letter from North Vietnam which was forwarded to you by members of our Committee. We are enclosing an Information Sheet which explains the work of the Committee of Liaison.

The North Vietnamese have said that prisoners will be able to receive and send one letter a month. As noted in the Information Sheet, you may send letters directly to North Vietnam (note the mail address and route). If you would like us to forward them for you, please enclose but do not affix stamps as we will be sending them on in packets. We are also enclosing a letter form which you might wish to use, whether you send it directly or through us. Prisoners can also receive one package, not over six pounds in weight, every other month.

To insure the safe and rapid delivery of mail from prisoners, the North Vietnamese will send periodic packets of letters through our office. The letters will then be dispatched immediately to the families to whom they are addressed.

The only way to secure the eventual release of prisoners is through the decision by the United States to end the war. But in the meantime we are pleased to be able to assist in the communication between men and their families. We hope to forward letters on to you again soon.

Sincerely,

Maggie Geddes  
Maggie Geddes

## COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

*with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam*

365 West 42nd Street New York N.Y. 10036

212-765-1490

—January, 1970

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dillingar  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee (in formation):  
Ranee Davis  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
\*Magie Gaddis  
\*Dave Holliswell  
Stewart Mechem  
Prof. Bea Seltzman  
Ethel Taylor  
Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young  
\*staff

### INFORMATION SHEET

#### Background

In the course of the Vietnam war, links have been built between the people of Vietnam and Americans who oppose the war through numerous meetings and conferences. These meetings have taken place in Europe, Canada, Cuba and Southeast Asia and have included people from both the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam) and the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam (now part of the Provisional Revolutionary Government).

In these meetings the Vietnamese have always stressed a distinction between the U.S. government, whom they hold responsible for the policy of war, and the U.S. people, whom they believe still value the goals upon which this country was founded--independence, justice, freedom and equality. This same distinction is evident to those Americans who have visited North Vietnam and found that even though the nation is armed to defend itself, the people are encouraged by their government to believe that the American people are basically decent and humane.

It is therefore understandable that the Vietnamese should indicate their basic confidence in the American people through the peace movement which they believe embodies American ideals, rather than the government. And in the past, the Vietnamese have asked the peace movement to receive U.S. servicemen--primarily pilots whose planes were shot down--when the North Vietnamese government has decided to release them. On three separate occasions--February 1968, July 1968 and July 1969--the peace movement has gone to Hanoi and returned with released servicemen; on one occasion an American peace activist went to Phnom Penh, Cambodia to receive three released NLF captives.

In addition, Americans visiting Hanoi have frequently carried letters there at the request of families, and have brought back letters from servicemen. There have also been occasions when American peace activists have met prisoners and talked with them.

#### Functions of the Committee

A Committee of Liaison has now been established as an extension of these past efforts at the request of the North Vietnamese. As on past occasions, the peace movement is responding to a request by the Vietnamese to meet a specific, immediate need and is not in any sense representing the government of North Vietnam.

The Committee will seek to facilitate communication between families in the U.S. and servicemen now imprisoned in North Vietnam. Basically, the Committee will receive letters from servicemen and forward them through the domestic mails, thereby decreasing, we hope, past problems in the receipt of such mail. We will also forward letters to North Vietnam at the request of relatives. Families are of course still free to send letters and parcels directly but should note that the instructions on mailing previously issued by the State Department are wrong. The correct address is:

name of serviceman

serial number

Camp of Detention of U.S. Pilots  
Captured in the D.R.V.

Hanoi, Democratic Republic of Vietnam

via Moscow, U.S.S.R.

In addition, it is possible that the Vietnamese will be able to verify

INFORMATION SHEET - page 2

requests for information about servicemen from families who are uncertain if their relatives are being held in North Vietnam. Requests should be submitted to the Committee, but there is no certainty when and if the North Vietnamese will be able to respond. The Committee will of course transmit immediately any information that it receives to the family.

Clarification

Two clarifications are in order: first, it should be noted that the Committee will be dealing solely with the government of North Vietnam and will not have any information on men held in South Vietnam by the Provisional Revolutionary Government. Nor will we be able to provide information at this time concerning men held in Laos or any other Southeast Asian country where U.S. troops and aircraft are presently involved in combat missions.

Secondly, the Committee will function entirely apart from the U.S. government. The U.S. government has frequently made it more difficult for the Vietnamese to be open to the concerns of American families by using the families' genuine desires as a propaganda ploy. The government has further attempted to provoke an angry response from the Vietnamese by publicizing unsubstantiated and inflammatory testimony from fliers already released; apparently, the government has decided to jeopardize existing communications and the possibility of future releases for the sake of propaganda aimed at prolonging the war. The North Vietnamese are also very aware that the U.S. government's claims of humanitarian concerns are contradicted by the well-documented policy of torture and brutality practiced on prisoners taken in the South by U.S. and Saigon troops.

In addition to all these factors, there is the simple fact that the resolution of the fate of all the servicemen now held in North Vietnam waits ultimately upon a U.S. decision to end the war and withdraw all its forces and materiel.

Who We Are

We firmly believe that the safe return of these men and the half million others that the U.S. maintains in South Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and aboard naval vessels--who can also be viewed as prisoners, prisoners of their own government since many have been sent to fight in a war against the dictates of their own conscience--can only come with a decision on the part of the U.S. government to withdraw from Vietnam. Because of this conviction, we who are serving on this Committee will continue our efforts to create popular pressure strong enough to force the government to withdraw.

We are active in a variety of organizations committed to ending the war: American Friends Service Committee, the New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, Clergy and Laymen Concerned about Vietnam, Women Strike for Peace, The Conspiracy, and Women Against Daddy Warbucks. The Committee is supported by donations from individuals and organizations, and welcomes any gifts to sustain its work.

**COMMITTEE OF LIAISON  
with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam**

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

**CABLE ADDRESS:**

COLIAFAM

May 4, 1970

**Co-chairmen:**

Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

**Treasurer:**

Mrs. Anne Bennett

**Committee**

Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart MacCham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

want to write.

The North Vietnamese authorities indicated that, from this point forward, they will not feel responsible for forwarding letters and packages that do not adhere to the above.

If the letter form is mailed directly it can go in another envelope but the mail route, "via Moscow, U.S.S.R.," should definitely be included in the address. If letters are sent to the Committee of Liaison for forwarding please enclose but do not affix stamps as we send letters on in packets. The Committee cannot forward packages for families.

While I was in Hanoi, Prof. Douglas Dowd of Cornell University and I met with three pilots: Cdr. Robert Schweitzer of Lemoore, California; Cdr. Walter Wilbur of Virginia Beach and Lt. Col. Edison Miller of Santa Ana, California. The three men were in good health, and said they had daily exercise and reading material. The three pilots advised us that they had been getting letters and packages from their

Richard Fernandez two - page 2

families, and asked that packages include toilet articles and canned foods. In particular they mentioned soap, shaving cream (no razors or blades), toothpaste, powdered milk and cream, instant coffee and non-melting candy. They said they do not need clothes.

Also, in my discussions with the Vietnam Committee of Solidarity with the American People, the Committee of Liaison's contact in North Vietnam, we confirmed that since December over 800 letters have been sent from Hanoi through the Committee of Liaison. Of those, 156 letters are still on their way from Hanoi to families here.

We hope that this information clarifies some aspects of correspondence for you. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

**NGƯỜI GỬI (Addressor)**

**HỌ TÊN (Name in full):**

**SỐ LỆNH (Service number):**

**NƠI VÀ NGÀY SINH (Date & place of birth):**

**ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):**

TRẠI GIAM PHI CÔNG MỸ BỊ BẮT TẠI  
NUỚC VIỆT-NAM DÂN CHỦ CỘNG HÒA

VIA MOSCOW, USSR (Camp of detention for U.S. pilots captured  
in the DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC of VIETNAM)

**COMMITTEE OF LIAISON**

**with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam**

**GỬI (Addressee)**

**HỌ TÊN (Name in full):**

**ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):**

*- Gửi -*

**NGÀY VIẾT (Dated) .....**

**ÔN GIẢI CHÚ (N.B.):**

1. Phải viết rõ và chỉ được viết trên những dòng kẻ sẵn (Write legibly and only on the lines).
2. Trong thư chỉ được nói về tình hình sức khỏe và tình hình gia đình (Write only about health and family).
3. Gia đình gửi đến cũng phải theo đúng mẫu, khuôn khổ và quy định này (Letters from families should also conform to this proforma).

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# **COMMITTEE OF LIAISON**

**with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam**

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee  
Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Modeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

May 13, 1970

Dear friend:

Today we received two packages of letters which we have been expecting from prisoners held in North Vietnam. The total number of letters in both packages was 156. Although the packages were mailed a month apart, they both arrived here today.

We are very happy to send herewith the letter addressed to you.

Sincerely,  
Barbara Webster  
Barbara Webster

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 5, 1970

1.

*b2c*

Mrs. [REDACTED] wife of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
 was interviewed at her residence,  
 Florida.

*b2c*

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that her husband was shot down over North Vietnam on [REDACTED] 1967, and approximately one year later she began receiving letters from him.

She stated she has received a number of letters from her husband since that time and the last six or eight letters that she has received from him have come through the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM). She stated that since she started receiving letters from her husband through this committee, she has not received any other communications from him.

E.O. 12812

*b7c*

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she has never been personally contacted by any member of COLIFAM nor has she received any telephone calls from any one of them. She stated that she believes the reason she was never contacted by them is the fact that she was already receiving letters from her husband prior to the institution of this committee in the latter part of 1969 or the beginning of 1970.

*b2c*

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she is certain that her husband is receiving her letters that she is sending to him, however, she is not sending them through the committee. She stated that she is sure of this fact since in a number of his letters he has referred to pictures of the family that she has sent in her letters.

*b7c*

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that the letters she receives from her husband which come through COLIFAM are in an envelope of the organization in which is usually located a mimeographed letter usually indicating the aims of the organization as well as the fact that COLIFAM is probably the best method of communication between POWs and their wives.

On

7-30-70

Florida

JK 100-1419

File #

SA [REDACTED]

and

*b7c*

E.O. 12812-2

by

SA [REDACTED]

Date dictated

8-5-70

JK 100-1419

2

b2c

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she has destroyed the letters she received from the committee, however, they were similar to the letters that had been received by Mrs. [REDACTED] who is the wife of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who is also a POW in North Vietnam.

E.O. 12813-2

Mrs. [REDACTED] b2c stated that she would not consider testifying against this organization until her husband was home in the United States, safe and sound, since this apparently is the only method now available for delivery of letters from POWs to their wives and she definitely did not want to do anything which would jeopardize her receiving these few letters from her husband. She stated that when the United States Government had her husband returned to this country, safe and sound, then she would testify against the organization at that time.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 5, 19701b7c

[REDACTED]  
 Florida, advised that she is the wife of [REDACTED] who is a prisoner of war (POW) in North Vietnam.

She stated that on approximately March 25, 1970, she received a telephone call from ETHEL TAYLOR, a member of the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM). She stated that Mrs. TAYLOR told her that she would be receiving a letter from her husband which they had just brought back from North Vietnam. Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she was already familiar with the organization and its principals and therefore did not let herself sound too enthusiastic to Mrs. TAYLOR.

Mrs. TAYLOR continued by saying that she did not know when Mrs. [REDACTED] would receive the letter since there was a postal strike on at that time, but that it should be within a short period of time. Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that a number of other wives of POWs received calls from Mrs. TAYLOR at the same time indicating that they also would receive a letter from their husbands. She stated that the rest of these individuals received their letters within one week, however, she, Mrs. [REDACTED] did not receive her letter until May of 1970.

b7c Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she has not received any additional telephone calls from Mrs. TAYLOR or any other member of the organization. She stated that she has never been personally contacted by any member of COLIFAM.

b7c Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that in the letters that she has received from her husband, there has also been mimeographed form letters from COLIFAM indicating the best method of sending letters to her husband is through them. She stated that these forms did not indicate that mail sent by other means would not be received by the POWs. She stated that she has never used COLIFAM to send letters to her husband.

On 7-30-70 at [REDACTED] File # Florida JK 100-1419

by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 8-5-70

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JK 100-1419

2

b7c  
Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she has received two additional letters from her husband through COLIFAM since March, 1970.

b7c  
Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that the first letter she received from her husband was dated December 13, 1969, and the second was dated January 18, 1970, and the last letter she received was dated May 18, 1970. She stated that none of the letters she received from her husband indicated that he had received any mail from her.

b7c  
Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that the mimeographed form letters that she received from COLIFAM along with letters to her husband, are no longer in her possession, but they are the same as the letters received by Mrs. [REDACTED]

b7c  
Mrs. [REDACTED] could not furnish the names of any additional wives of POWs who have received similar communications from COLIFAM other than those already known. Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she definitely would be willing to testify in United States District Court concerning any contacts or communications she received from any member of COLIFAM.

E.O. 13812

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date, August 5, 19701

Mrs. ██████████ wife of ██████████ a prisoner of war  
 (POW), North Vietnam, resides at ██████████  
Florida.

Mrs. ██████████ stated that her husband, who is in the United States Air Force, was shot down over North Vietnam on ██████████ 1966, and it was not until ██████████ 1969, that she received information that he was, in fact, alive and a prisoner of war.

E.O. 12812

Mrs. ██████████ stated that she received her first letter from her husband in January, 1970, and it came to her through her former address at ██████████ Florida.

Mrs. ██████████ stated that she has moved approximately five times since she lived at ██████████ Florida, to her present address in ██████████ Florida, and that she has never been personally or telephonically contacted by any member of the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM), through whom the aforementioned letter was received. She stated that she believes that they have not contacted her since they have not been able to locate her in view of her many residential changes in the last two years.

Mrs. ██████████ stated that in the envelope from COLIFAM in which her husband's letter was received, was also a mimeographed letter from COLIFAM setting forth its ideas and beliefs on the war in Vietnam and also the fact that letters could best be received and sent to POWs through that organization. She stated she has never used this organization to send any letters to her husband and, in fact, took the mimeographed letter from them, tore it up and threw it down the toilet. She stated that she did not sympathize in anyway with the organization and believes they are merely using the wives of POWs to further their own cause.

On 8-3-70 at ██████████ Florida File # JK 100-1419

by SA ██████████ and SA ██████████ Date dictated 8-5-70

E.O. 12812-2

-70-

b2c

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that her mother-in-law, Mrs. [REDACTED] received a letter from [REDACTED] toward the first part of July, 1970, which had been written by him on May 18, 1970. She said that the letter was strickly to Mrs. [REDACTED] and there was no message for his wife, [REDACTED]

b7c

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that there was no mention in either of the letters from her husband which indicated he was aware of COLIFAM.

She further stated that neither of the letters had any indication in them that he had received any of the letters she had sent to him.

b7c

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she believes that her mother-in-law, Mrs. [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] is using COLIFAM in order to communicate with her son.

b7c

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she definitely would testify in United States District Court against COLIFAM if she was ever called to do so, although at this time, she did not believe she has any information which would be of value.

She stated that if she should receive any further communications or be contacted personally by COLIFAM she will immediately notify the FBI.

E.O. 18812-3

JK 100-1419

Mrs. [REDACTED] Florida, advised Special Agent [REDACTED] JR. on July 17, 1970, that Mrs. [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] was last known to reside at [REDACTED] Florida. [REDACTED] b2c

[REDACTED] Special Agent [REDACTED] observed on July 17, 1970, that the house at [REDACTED] was vacant. [REDACTED] b2c

Mrs. [REDACTED] United States Post [REDACTED] Office, [REDACTED] advised Special Agent [REDACTED] on July 17, 1970, that Mrs. [REDACTED] had left a forwarding address of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] b2c

The following investigation was conducted by [REDACTED] b2c Special Agent [REDACTED] on July 20, 1970.

AT [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] FLORIDA [REDACTED] b2c

[REDACTED] advised the records of his office failed to contain any record regarding a [REDACTED] in the United States Navy whose address is given as [REDACTED] Florida. [REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] name is not familiar to him as anybody he has ever known residing in [REDACTED] County. [REDACTED]

Mr. [REDACTED] Post Office, advised that [REDACTED] an officer in the United States Navy, is a prisoner of war in North Viet-Nam. He advised that [REDACTED] wife is the granddaughter of Mrs. [REDACTED] who receives her mail at [REDACTED] Post Office. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that mail has come to the post office addressed to Mrs. [REDACTED] and it is always picked up by Mrs. [REDACTED] since Mrs. [REDACTED] resides in either [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. He stated he does not have a change of address for Mrs. [REDACTED] but this could be obtained through Mrs. [REDACTED] or Mrs. [REDACTED] who likewise resides in [REDACTED] Florida. [REDACTED]

Mrs. [REDACTED] advised she is the daughter of Mrs. [REDACTED] and the aunt of [REDACTED] She advised that Mrs. [REDACTED] currently resides on [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] Florida, however,

60-12812-2

-72-

JK 100-1419

b2c

she does not know the correct number. She advised Mrs. [REDACTED] receives her mail at [REDACTED] Florida.

2-12-81/2  
G.O.

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that Mrs. [REDACTED] has never given an official change of address from [REDACTED] Florida, for fear that mail from her prisoner of war husband might be lost or detained. She stated that for this reason, all mail coming from [REDACTED] husband is normally sent to [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] Florida. This mail is picked up by Mrs. [REDACTED] and then immediately delivered to Mrs. [REDACTED], who resides in [REDACTED] Florida. K b2c

Mrs. [REDACTED] advised nobody, to her knowledge, has contacted [REDACTED] concerning her husband, either in an official or unofficial capacity. b2c

Mrs. [REDACTED] Pensacola, Florida, advised Special Agent [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] August 7, 1970, that her son-in-law is [REDACTED] an officer in the United States Navy, who is a prisoner of war. Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that Mrs. [REDACTED] is presently residing at [REDACTED] California. b2c

73 \*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)

DATE: 8/26/70

FROM: [REDACTED] AC, PITTSBURGH (100-16736) (RUC)

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES  
OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)  
IS-MISC  
REGISTRATION ACT  
(OO: New York)

7-23-93-980 [REDACTED]

POW/mia E.O.12812

b2c  
Re New York airtel to Bureau dated 6/9/70.

During June and July, 1970, confidential informants and sources who are familiar with Communist Party subversive groups and New Left activities in the Pittsburgh Division were contacted concerning the above captioned organization with negative results. Identities of informants are located in the Pittsburgh file.

A review of Pittsburgh indices concerning captioned matter is negative.

A review of newspapers in the Pittsburgh Division failed to reveal any information concerning the captioned matter.

Senior Resident Agents within the Pittsburgh Division could furnish no information concerning any contact with families of possible POWs in Vietnam.

During August, 1970, after previous contact with G-2, OSI, and ONI, all Pittsburgh, all stated that they could identify no activity on the part of the above captioned organization in relation to any matters under their jurisdiction. (Identifying information in Pittsburgh file).

In view of the fact that no positive information can be established concerning the above captioned organization, no further investigation is being conducted at this time.

- ② Bureau (RM)  
2 - New York (100-168469) (RM)  
1 - Pittsburgh

REC 25

100-457899-94

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

4 AUG 31

SI-122

5 SEP 9 1970



5010-104-02

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

FBI

Date: 8/25/70

Transmit the following in

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL

**(Priority)**

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)

SAC, DETROIT (100-37260) (P)

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH  
FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED  
IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)  
IS-MISC.

RA  
(OO: NY)

~~RECEIVED  
FEBRUARY 15 1968  
1968~~  
~~123.930.980~~  
POWIMIA E.O. 1

Re New York airtel, dated 6/9/70.

Enclosed for the Bureau are 11, New York and WFO 2 copies of a LHM concerning information that may have bearing on captioned group.

113th MIG, Detroit, advised on 7/31/70, that he knew of no information concerning COLIFAM in the Michigan area.

On 8/6/70, Mr. [REDACTED] Commander, OSI, Selfridge Air Force Base, Mich., advised he could furnish no information re COLIFAM. He said he was aware of a group called National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia. Information concerning this group is contained in attached LHM. Mr. [REDACTED]

- 2 - Bureau (Enc. Y1) (RM) REC-29  
2 - New York (100-168469) (Enc. 2) (RM)  
2 - WFO (100-50739) (Enc. 2) (RM) EX-109  
5 - Detroit

~~Copy to OSE, RAO-ESP, STATE~~  
by routing slip for

Info  action **ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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BY SOURCE**

**L2** AUG 28 1970

60 SEP 4 1970

E 154 Special Agent in Charge

Extend 90-0

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1968 O - 345-600 (11)

DE 100-37260

advised he would make appropriate contacts and advise as to relatives of POWs living in the State of Michigan.

On 8/17/70, [REDACTED] furnished list of POWS that have relatives residing in Michigan. Mr. [REDACTED] requested that this list be used for official U.S. government business only and not be shown to any next of kin or distributed to any agency outside the FBI and he not be identified as source of this list. He said this list contains lists of servicemen who are presently listed as missing in action and their POW status has not been verified. Those whose POW status has been verified as contained in the list furnished by Mr. [REDACTED] are as follows:

1. Capt. ROBERT A. ABBOTT, captured North Vietnam; parents Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED] Mich. [REDACTED]

2. Capt. JAMES R. BERGER captured North Vietnam; mother Mrs. [REDACTED] Mich. [REDACTED]

3. Major EARL G. COBEIL captured North Vietnam; wife Mrs. [REDACTED] Mich. [REDACTED]

4. Lt. Col. WILLARD S. GIDEON captured North Vietnam; wife Mrs. [REDACTED] Mich. [REDACTED]

5. Major DONALD E. ODELL captured North Vietnam; wife Mrs. [REDACTED] Mich. [REDACTED]

Mr. [REDACTED] stated that it is his desire that none of the above relatives of POWs be telephonically contacted for any reason prior to interview.

E.O. /28/2021  
7-1-2

E.O. 12812-2  
DE 100-37260

Mrs. [REDACTED] Detroit has previously set out leads to interview [REDACTED] and relatives of [REDACTED]

LEADS

b7c

WASHINGTON FIELD

AT WASHINGTON, D.C.

Attempt to ascertain if National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia has any connection with COLIFAM it being noted that according to information in attached LHM, this group has headquarters in Washington, D.C.

DETROIT

Will interview relatives of the five prisoners listed above in accordance with instructions set out in re New York airtel.

AT [REDACTED] MICHIGAN

b7c

Will interview Mrs. [REDACTED]

AT [REDACTED] MICHIGAN

b7c

Will interview Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Mich.

AT [REDACTED] MICHIGAN

b7c

Will interview Mrs. [REDACTED]  
and Mrs. [REDACTED]

DE 300-87260

E.O. 12812-2

AT [REDACTED] MICHIGAN

Will interview Mrs. [REDACTED]

62c



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Detroit, Michigan  
August 25, 1970

40-12812-2  
Re: Committee of Liaison with  
Families of Servicemen Detained  
in North Vietnam (COLIFAM)

HERE: 2393 9803  
POW/mia EO 12812

b2c

On page one, of the August 11, 1970, edition of the "Macomb Daily", a daily newspaper published in Mt. Clemens, Michigan, an article appeared entitled "Wife of War Prisoner Seeks Release of American Captives". The article is set out as follows:

"Humane treatment for prisoners of war and their release as early as possible are the goals of a 39-year-old Clinton Township mother whose husband has been a prisoner of war in North Vietnam for the past four years.

"She is Mrs. Barbara Gideon, 21454 Hillside Drive, the mother of two children. Her husband Willard, a pilot in the U.S. Air Force, was captured after his plane was shot down while on a bombing mission over North Vietnam in 1966.

"He is one of 400 known American prisoners in North Vietnam, with 1,100 other Americans described simply as 'missing' in the war in Vietnam.

"We don't know what kind of treatment those 1,500 men are receiving,' she said.

"She has written letters to her husband steadily through the years that he has been a prisoner, unsure if those letters were reaching

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SUSPENSE

100-45717-92  
ENCLOSURE

Re: Committee of Liaison with  
Families of Servicemen Detained  
in North Vietnam (COLIFAM)

"him and wondering if he would get a chance to reply.

"A month ago the first reply arrived. In a short letter Maj. Gideon told his family to take care of one another.

"'He said he's in good health and we should take care of each other, that's what we can do for him,' Mrs. Gideon said.

"She has written the government of North Vietnam and the U.S. State Department too, seeking release of prisoners in the war.

"Officials in the State Department told her that they release the names of all captured persons and allow the enemy to inspect prison campus and are trying to get North Vietnam to do the same.

"North Vietnam has not replied to Mrs. Gideon.

"A career military officer, Maj. Gideon and his wife have been married for 16 years. Their children are Willard, 13, and Georgia, 12.

"Mrs. Gideon says she takes no sides on the issues of the war. 'My main concern is for humanitarian treatment of the prisoners,' she explained.

"A letter writing campaign has been organized by the National League of Families of American Prisoners whose Michigan chairman is Mrs. Shirley Odel, 41206 Gayhaven, Harrison Township, whose

Re: Committee of Liaison with  
Families of Servicemen Detained  
in North Vietnam (COLIFAM)

"husband, Maj. Donald Odell, has been a prisoner  
in North Vietnam since 1967.

"We're urging people to write one letter  
a month to whoever can help until all our American  
men held captive are released,' she said.  
'They cannot speak for themselves and we must  
speak for them. Don't let them be forgotten."

On page one of the August 18, 1970, edition of  
the "Macomb Daily", an article appeared entitled "Harrison  
Woman Named Coordinator of POW Families".

The article is set out as follows:

"Mrs. Shirley A. Odell, 41206 Gayhaven, the  
wife of United States Air Force Major Donald E.  
Odell, has been named State Coordinator for Michigan  
of the National League of Families of American  
Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia.

"The newly-formed organization, with member-  
ship restricted to wives, parents and other  
relatives of U.S. citizens held in Communist prison  
camps, has its headquarters in Washington, D.C.

"Major Odell was shot down while on a mission  
in his F-105 over North Vietnam Oct. 17, 1967.  
He was listed as missing in action until last  
Dec. 23, 1969.

"At that time, Mrs. Odell received her first,  
six-line letter from him, released by Hanoi after  
an appeal from a woman's peace group.

"It was the first time she had evidence that  
her husband was alive, and Mrs. Odell has since  
received three other letters.

Re: Committee of Liaison with  
Families of Servicemen Detained  
in North Vietnam (COLIFAM)

"Officers of the organization are also related to missing or imprisoned servicemen, and all serve on a volunteer basis.

"The league is a non-profit, non-partisan organization, financed by the families themselves and by contributions from concerned individuals and organizations.

"As State Coordinator, Mrs. Odell will be responsible for working with concerned citizens and state and local civic organizations to create involvement in programs designed to aid the men and their families.

"She will also be available to help arrange for speakers to address groups interested in learning more about the prisoner-of-war problem, the conditions under which the men are held, and various ways the public can help.

"Additionally, Mrs. Odell will serve as a formal link between state families and the national headquarters of the league in Washington and will function as a liaison representative in responding to needs and questions of POW and MIA families in the state area.

"In announcing Mrs. Odell's appointment, the league's chairman, Mrs. Sybil Stockdale, said:

"Many of our citizens across the land are still unaware that some 1,500 American servicemen are prisoners or missing in Southeast Asia, that the vast majority have never been identified by their captors, that most are held incommunicado--often in solitary confinement, and that North Vietnam and its communist allies have steadfastly refused to treat the prisoners in accordance with the international regulations prescribed by the Geneva Convention.

Re: Committee of Liaison with  
Families of Servicemen Detained  
in North Vietnam (COLIFAM)

"'Families of these men believe that nothing short of public outrage on the part of the American people and the citizens of the world will help to improve the lot of the prisoners or assure their early release,' she added."

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

Date: 8/25/70

Transmit the following in

E.O. 12812 - 2

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via

AIRTEL

b2c

(Priority)

7-23-93-980 [REDACTED]

POW/MIA EO 12356

345 570

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)

SAC, HOUSTON (105-2693) (RUC)

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES  
OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH  
VIETNAM (COLIFAM)  
IS - MISCELLANEOUS  
REGISTRATION ACT  
(OO: NY)

b2c

Re NY airtel to Bu, 6/9/70 and HO airtel to Bu,  
8/14/70.

Enclosed for the Bureau are five copies of LHM setting  
interview with Mrs. [REDACTED]

CLOSED FOR NEW YORK. b2c

A review of the indices of the Houston Division did  
not disclose any press releases regarding captioned matter. The  
only activity of COLIFAM in this territory has been reported  
previously. The indices failed to reflect the identity of any  
families of servicemen who had been contacted by COLIFAM.

On 7/7/70, [REDACTED] MIG, Houston, advised his office  
had no information regarding COLIFAM. b2c

On 7/7/70 [REDACTED] was contacted by SA [REDACTED]  
and on 7/16/70 [REDACTED] was contacted by SA [REDACTED].  
Neither informant had any information regarding COLIFAM.  
They were alerted to furnish any information received regarding  
COLIFAM. b2c

ENCLOSURE

1 - Bureau (Enc-5) (RM)  
2 - New York (100-168469) (Enc-2) (RM)  
1 - Houston

AGENCY: DIA/INT, DS, DDC-SER, STATE, CIA

ICC LEGAT DONA

REC-700-457899-96

4 AUG 27 1970

b2c

DATE FORM: 8/21/70

HOW FORM:

BY:

Spec. Agent in Charge

b2c

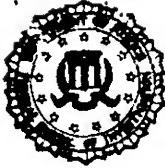
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b2c

Spec. Agent in Charge

b2c

Spec. Agent in Charge</



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Houston, Texas  
August 25, 1970

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES  
OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH  
VIETNAM (COLIFAM)  
INTERNAL SECURITY - MISCELLANEOUS  
REGISTRATION ACT

E.O. 12812-2

b1c b2c  
On August 24, 1970, Mrs. [REDACTED]  
was interviewed at her residence,  
Texas, and furnished the following information:

b2c  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
E.O. 12812 Pow/Mia  
345,570

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ENCLOSURE

14

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/25/70*b2c*

Mrs. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Texas, furnished the following information:

Her Husband [REDACTED] entered [REDACTED] the United States Air Force in [REDACTED] On [REDACTED] 1966 he was assigned to overseas duty in Vietnam. On [REDACTED] 1966, while on a combat mission over North Vietnam, he was shot down over Hanoi and was reported missing in action by the United States Air Force.

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that on August 9, 1969, she was notified by the United States Air Force that information had been received that [REDACTED] was being "detained" in North Vietnam, and was no longer being listed as "missing in action." *b7c*

Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that she has an unlisted telephone number, and that very few people in [REDACTED] Texas know her telephone number. Her mother-in-law, [REDACTED] is listed in the telephone directory. She received several telephone calls from a woman who sounded like she was of Mexican descent. This woman tried to have her mother-in-law give her the unlisted telephone number, stating she had information concerning [REDACTED]. The unlisted telephone number was not given to her. This woman told her mother-in-law that there was an organization at the University of Houston... name not recalled, that they had the address of [REDACTED] wife and would go out to see her. They never came to her residence. *b7c*

On the Tuesday before Easter, 1970, two men and a young boy came to her residence. The man who did the talking had a full beard and stated he was with a Quaker Organization. He told her that her husband was in Vietnam, and that the Organization had been trying to reach her. This man stated he came out to tell her that she would receive a letter from her husband through the Committee of Liaison, New York City. She advised that on a Saturday night, five weeks after Easter, she received the letter from her husband. This is the only letter she has received from him. *b7c*

On 8/24/70 at [REDACTED] Texas File # HO 105-2693

*G.O. 12812-3 b2c*SA G. [REDACTED]  
*if and so*Date dictated 8/25/70

HO 105-2693

2

b7c

Mrs. [REDACTED] advised on March 25, 1970, she had her first contact with the "Committee of Liaison with Families Detained in North Vietnam" when she received a telegram advising her that information had been received from Hanoi that a letter from her husband was enroute. The telegram advised she would receive details later.

She next received a form letter dated March 25, 1970, signed by CORA WEISS and DAVE DELLINGER, stating that a letter from her husband had been mailed from North Vietnam. Also enclosed was a copy of a press release captioned "COMMUNICATION WITH CAPTURED AIRMEN ESTABLISHED BY NEW COMMITTEE: LETTERS ENROUTE NOW".

The next letter received was post marked on April 24, 1970, at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and enclosed a form letter which stated that enclosed was a letter from North Vietnam. There were also enclosed several forms, apparently to be used in corresponding with her husband. The letter was signed by BARBARA WEBSTER and MAGGIE GEDDES.

The last communication she has received from this Committee was dated May 4, 1970, and post marked on May 7, 1970, at New York, N.Y. This communication was from Rev. RICHARD FERNANDEZ, and furnished information on correspondence with prisoners.

Mrs. [REDACTED] b7c stated she has never been contacted personally or by telephone by any of the persons who signed the communications she received.

Mrs. [REDACTED] b7c furnished copies of the above mentioned communications, XEROX copies were made and the originals were returned to Mrs. [REDACTED] b7c Copies of this correspondence are as follows:

b7c

E.O. 12813 - 3

E.O. 12812-2

904P CST LAR 15-50 NKF569 EX675  
C1563 NK566 NN VQAC69 PBO OVO NEW YORK NY 25 1932A EST !

[REDACTED] 676  
[REDACTED] 676

RECEIVED BY [REDACTED] AT HCO  
REF ID: A7171 VCS LETTER DATED FEB 1974 STATING MAIL  
FROM [REDACTED] OR EXECUTIVE DETAILS FOLLOW  
COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED  
IN NORTH VIETNAM (212 765-1490)

EF-1201 (RS-CO)

## COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

### with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

4-0. 17017-8 (212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee (in formation):  
Rennie Davis  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
\*Maggie Geddes  
\*Steve Holliswell  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Leo Seitzman  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
\*Trudi Young  
  
\*staff

We have just received word from Hanoi that [REDACTED] L2c  
a letter from [REDACTED]  
has been mailed to you from North Vietnam. His  
name was included in a list of 80 servicemen  
just received; this list represents advance  
notice of 82 letters mailed together in a  
package due to arrive soon. As soon as it comes,  
we will forward it to you. Forgive this mimeo-  
graphed communication, but we wanted you to know  
as quickly as possible.

The Committee of Liaison was set up to facilitate  
communication between men who are held in North  
Vietnam and their families in this country. You  
may be interested to know that since this new  
arrangement was made with the North Vietnamese in  
December, 376 letters have been sent from Hanoi  
through us to families, and that as of this  
current notification 256 servicemen have been confirmed as held by  
the North Vietnamese. More mail is en route and it is expected that  
mail will soon be normalized.

The arrangement for mail is described in the announcement enclosed.  
We are very pleased to be able to perform this service and hope that  
you will feel free to be in touch with us should you have further  
questions. In the meantime we continue to work for the immediate and  
complete withdrawal of all troops from Vietnam; to bring to an end  
the fighting, killing and capturing; and to hasten the day when all  
families, American and Vietnamese will be reunited.

Sincerely yours,

*Cora Weiss & Dave Dellinger*  
Cora Weiss Dave Dellinger

U.S. NEWSWIRE  
**with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam**

36 42nd Street New York N.Y. 10036

212-765-1490  
Cable address: COLIAFAM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Co-chairman:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee (in formation):  
Rennie Davis  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
\*Magie Geddes  
\*Steve Halliwell  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Ben Solzman  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
\*Trudi Young  
\*staff

COMMUNICATION WITH CAPTURED AIRMEN

ESTABLISHED BY NEW COMMITTEE:

LETTERS EN ROUTE NOW

Chicago, Jan. 15: In an unprecedented move, six anti-war activists announced today the formation of a Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam. The Committee will, according to Mrs. Cora Weiss, a co-chairman of the new group and a housewife from Riverdale, N.Y., "facilitate communication between servicemen held in North Vietnam and their relatives in the United States."

Specifically, "the Committee will receive letters from the captured American pilots," according to Mrs. Weiss, "and immediately forward them to the addressee. Also," she continued, "we will forward inquiries from families in the United States to the North Vietnamese authorities and they will attempt to confirm the status of their missing relatives."

According to Mrs. Weiss, "the North Vietnamese have agreed to send and receive one letter per month between airmen known to be held in North Vietnam and relatives in this country. Letters sent from the U.S.," she continued, "should be addressed to prisoner, serial number, Camp of Detention for U.S. Pilots Captured in the DRV, Hanoi, Democratic Republic of Vietnam, via Moscow, Soviet Union." Packages, Mrs. Weiss added, can be sent every other month and are not to exceed six pounds. Mrs. Weiss noted that the Committee will forward letters for the families to North Vietnam if requested by relatives to do so.

Dave Dellinger, the other co-chairman of the Committee and presently being tried on conspiracy charges in Chicago, outlined the background of previous prisoner releases to the American peace movement and said that "It is understandable that the North Vietnamese indicate their confidence in the American people through the peace movement in this way. We who are on this Committee," he continued, "firmly believe that the safe return of American pilots held in North Vietnam can only come from a decision on the part of the U.S. government to withdraw from Vietnam."

Mr. Dellinger decried the U.S. government for its ignoring the fate of thousands of prisoners in jails in South Vietnam who, with full knowledge and assistance of American personnel, are subjected to grotesque tortures, as has been frequently documented, most authoritatively by Congressman John Conyers and the Rev. Robert Drinan, Dean of Boston College Law School, in a recent survey of South Vietnamese prisons.

Another member of the Committee, Stewart Meacham, Peace Education Secretary of the American Friends Service Committee, said that "Lou Schneider of the AFSC has recently been given a packet of 69 letters in Hanoi from servicemen and those letters will soon arrive from Hong Kong in New York, and will immediately be sent to the addressees." Mr. Meacham said that "the 69 letters en route to the U.S. were written by 64 prisoners and the Committee can presently confirm the names of 162 airmen held by the North Vietnamese, or reported to be dead or unknown." Mr. Meacham emphasized that the list (available upon request) of 162 names was neither final nor comprehensive. He said that "While these names are known to us, there are undoubtedly others known to their families."

PRESS RELEASE - page 2

Davis, a defendant in the conspiracy trial, the Rev. Richard Fernandez, Director of Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam, and Maggie Geddes and Trudi Young, staff members of the Committee.

In December 1969, Mrs. Cora Weiss and two other women, Ethel Taylor of Philadelphia and Madeleine Duckles of San Francisco, all active with Women Strike for Peace, came back from Hanoi with 138 letters from prisoners for Christmas. Mrs. Weiss said at the press conference that she had worked out the details for this Committee during this recent trip. Historically, the development of the Committee is unprecedented in time of war.

Other members of the Committee of Liaison not present at today's press conference include Mrs. Anne Bennett, Prof. Bea Seitzman, Steve Halliwell and Barbara Webster. The Committee's office is at 365 West 42nd Street, 2nd floor, New York, N.Y.

--- 30 --- 30 --- 30 ---

Note: Since this release, 87 more letters from prisoners have been sent from North Vietnam for forwarding by the Committee.

## Antiwar Group Seen As Liaison To U.S. POWs

NEW YORK (AP) — An office to arrange and facilitate exchange of mail between American servicemen imprisoned in North Vietnam and their families will open here today, a group opposed to the war announced yesterday.

The office carries the name of the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, and its organizers are Mrs. Cora Weiss and David Dillingger.

Mrs. Weiss said the organization has had numerous contacts with families of prisoners it hopes to aid. She said 60 letters from 64 servicemen, brought by hand to Hong Kong, were flown to Philadelphia Saturday, then mailed to the families.

She said the North Vietnamese had approved mail arrangements by which families could send one letter and one package of no more than six pounds each month to relatives held prisoner.

Mrs. Weiss, national head of the Women's Strike for Peace and a co-chairman of the New Mobilization to End the War in Vietnam, returned recently from a trip to Hanoi.

Dillingger is one of the seven defendants being tried in Chicago on charges growing out of the disorders during the 1968 Democratic National Convention.

Mrs. Weiss said North Vietnamese officials have agreed to "reply to the extent possible" to inquiries from families.

The office will be at 365 W. 42nd St., Mrs. Weiss said.

## Foes of War Form Group to Forward Letters to P.O.W.s

which will have offices at 365 West 42d Street in New York City. She said the committee would then forward the letters to the prisoners' families.

Mrs. Weiss, who spent two weeks in North Vietnam in December, said the North Vietnamese had also agreed to answer inquiries from families of missing men and would "attempt to confirm their status."

Mrs. Weiss said this was the first time the North Vietnamese had agreed to answer such inquiries. She said the committee hoped for reasonably prompt responses.

Mrs. Weiss outlined the procedures for such inquiries. She said the family of any missing man could contact the committee's New York office and ask it to approach Hanoi.

She said the committee would send a telegram to North Vietnam, "assuming that Western Union will send our telegram—we've had some trouble with that."

If the prisoner has been confirmed killed or is unknown to the North Vietnamese, Mrs. Weiss said, Hanoi will respond by telegram; if the man was injured or in a prison camp, she said, the North Vietnamese would attempt to get the man to write his family through the committee.

With regard to mail from men known to be held in North Vietnam, Mrs. Weiss outlined the procedure to be followed. She said North Vietnam had agreed to send and receive one letter a month between prisoners and their relatives in this country.

Letters from the prisoners are to be sent in bundles to the committee's offices and then forwarded from there to the families.

from The New York Times, 1/16/70

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON  
365 West 42nd Street  
New York, N.Y. 10036

E.O. 12812-2

b2



# **COMMITTEE OF LIAISON**

**with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam**

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

60.12912-2  
*b7c*  
(212) 765-1490

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee  
Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]

We're very happy to forward this letter to you which just arrived from North Vietnam along with 81 others.

We know it's been a long time since you were informed that this letter was en route, but it's a long trip and we too are delighted that they've arrived.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Webster Maggie Geddes*

Barbara Webster Maggie Geddes  
for the Committee of Liaison

**NGƯỜI GỬI (Addressee)**

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

SỐ LƯỢNG (Service number): .....

NƠI VÀ NGÀY SINH (Date & place of birth): .....

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

TRẠI GIAM PHI CÔNG MỸ BỊ BẮT TẠI  
NUỚC VIỆT - NAM DÂN CHỦ CỘNG HÒA  
VIA MOSCOW, USSR (Camp of detention for U.S. pilots captured  
in the DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC of VIETNAM)

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON  
with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

**GỬI (Addressee)**

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

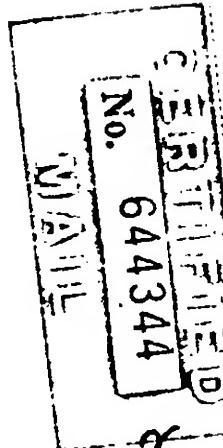
**AMERICAN  
CHURCH**

1. Phải viết rõ và chỉ được viết trên những dòng kẻ sẵn (Write legibly and only on the lines).
  2. Trong thư chỉ được nói về tình hình sức khỏe và tình hình gia đình (Write only about health and family).
  3. Gia đình gửi đến cũng phải theo đúng mẫu, khuôn khổ, và quy định này (Letters from families should also conform to this proforma).

COMMITTEE OF BLAISCH  
205 PARK AVENUE  
305 WEST 42ND STREET  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10036



1st CLASS  
AIR MAIL  
ma Spec. Del.  
Certified



RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED:

# COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

## *with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam*

36, West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 100...

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:

COLIAFAM

**Co-chairmen:**

Dave Dollinger  
Cora Weiss

**Treasurer:**

Mrs. Anne Bennett

**Committee**

Richard J. Barnett  
Ronnie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
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\*staff

want to write.

The North Vietnamese authorities indicated that, from this point forward, they will not feel responsible for forwarding letters and packages that do not adhere to the above.

If the letter form is mailed directly it can go in another envelope but the mail route, "via Moscow, U.S.S.R.," should definitely be included in the address. If letters are sent to the Committee of Liaison for forwarding please enclose but do not affix stamps as we send letters on in packets. The Committee cannot forward packages for families.

While I was in Hanoi, Prof. Douglas Dowd of Cornell University and I met with three pilots: Cdr. Robert Schweitzer of Lemoore, California, Cdr. Walter Wilbur of Virginia Beach and Lt. Col. Edison Miller of Santa Ana, California. The three men were in good health, and said they had daily exercise and reading material. The three pilots advised us that they had been getting letters and packages from their

May 4, 1970

**From:** Rev. Richard Fernandez  
**To:** The families of the 335 presently confirmed  
prisoners held in North Vietnam  
**Re:** Information on correspondence with prisoners

On April 20th I returned from a three-week trip to Laos and North Vietnam. In North Vietnam I spoke with officials responsible for communication between pilots held in detention there and their families here. The following information was emphasized to me by the North Vietnamese authorities and we are anxious to make sure that you are aware of it:

- 1) The Vietnamese recommend that families use the air-letter form (enclosed) for correspondence.
- 2) Communication to pilots should be limited to matters of family and health.
- 3) Pilots are allowed to receive one letter per month and one package every other month (not over six pounds in weight).

Detention Camp authorities have said that they do not wish to receive several letters and/or packages per month for a given pilot from different members of the same family. Families should make arrangements for alternating letters each month if different members

want to write.

The North Vietnamese authorities indicated that, from this point forward, they will not feel responsible for forwarding letters and packages that do not adhere to the above.

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Rico Hernandez memo - page 2

families, and asked that packages include toilet articles and canned foods. In particular they mentioned soap, shaving cream (no razors or blades), toothpaste, powdered milk and cream, instant coffee and non-melting candy. They said they do not need clothes.

Also, in my discussions with the Vietnam Committee of Solidarity with the American People, the Committee of Liaison's contact in North Vietnam, we confirmed that since December over 800 letters have been sent from Hanoi through the Committee of Liaison. Of those, 156 letters are still on their way from Hanoi to families here.

We hope that this information clarifies some aspects of correspondence for you. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON  
365 West 42nd Street  
New York, N.Y. 10036

E.O. 14176 - 2  
-217

